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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should foreign workers
be made to pay for their
own medical insurance?

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INSIDE



Youth Shelter

A temporary shelter for runaway and homeless youth is marking its first year of operation.

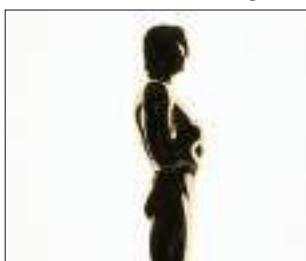
LOCAL...Page 13



State of Union

President Obama implores lawmakers to rally behind his vision of economic revival.

NATION...Page 15



Oscar Noms

"The King's Speech" leads the Oscars race with 12 nominations.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Ex-convict who ran over girlfriend with car gets 18 months. PAGE 3
Man is permanently removed from the CNMI. PAGE 7

33 contaminated ground beef packs pulled from shelves

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thirty-three packs of ground beef products suspected of e-coli contamination have been recalled in the Commonwealth

by the Bureau of Environmental Health.

The Food and Drugs Administration earlier this month issued a recall order on Nature's Harvest and Organic Harvest ground beef and beef patties due to suspected contamination.

Since the FDA order, bureau records show that 33 packs of the alleged contaminated items were found in CNMI stores and were immediately pulled out from shelves.

"In early part of January, BEH inspec-

tors found on stock in one establishment the affected and or reported Nature's Harvest ground beef," the bureau said in a statement to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The products involved were the 16 oz See **GROUND BEEF** on Page 4

Inos: Cash collection improves a bit but payroll is still delayed



Investor and travel issues dominate USCIS sessions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ruel Villacrusis, a foreign investor in the CNMI for 13 years, said he is worried about losing his construction, pawnshop, and remittance businesses if and when his application for a regular E-2 investor visa is denied,

after exhausting his CNMI-only E-2 investor status that he said he will apply for soon.

After taking into consideration the 13 comments on the CNMI-only E-2 investor proposed rule, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services lowered the investment thresh-

See **INVESTOR** on Page 4

Washington, D.C.-based Kevin J. Cummings, chief of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Business and Foreign Workers Division, lead the USCIS outreach session on the CNMI-only E-2 investor rule at the American Memorial Park auditorium last night. Besides explaining the investor rule, USCIS officials also had to answer several questions about parole, advance parole, travel restrictions and other immigration issues during the Jan. 25 and 26 outreach sessions that drew a combined audience of at least 124.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said that cash collections "slightly improved" in January compared to previous months' levels, partly because the Jan. 31 deadline for the latest quarterly business gross revenue tax payments is drawing near, but this does not necessarily mean that payrolls won't be delayed, including the one for today.



See **PAYOUT** on Page 4

DPH misses its deadline to create a public healthcare corp.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By now, the Department of Public Health should already be a public healthcare corporation as required by a January 2010 law, but Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez is asking the Legislature to move the deadline to June this year.

See **DPH** on Page 4



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Local

PSS: More students on wait list for Head Start, kindergarten programs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Funding constraints continue to hamper the Public School System's plan to accommodate more schoolchildren in its Head Start and kindergarten programs.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and PSS finance director Richard Waldo admitted that the wait list for both programs continue to grow every school year. It's a problem that PSS cannot resolve at this time because of the limited budget being allotted public schools for operations, they said.

As of yesterday, Head Start had 202 children on its wait list for this school year. In kindergarten, over a hundred children are waiting for accommodation in public schools.

Waldo said the only chance to accommodate more enrollees is if both federal and local funding goes up. However, he sees a slim chance of that ever happening.

Head Start is a federally funded program that requires a 25-percent local match. It receives \$1.8 million annually for its mandated 462 enrollees in the

Commonwealth.

"The budget for Head Start is set at \$1.8 million annually and it will not increase according to the program's Region XI office. So I do not believe that we can increase our enrolment beyond 462 to lessen those kids on the wait list," said Waldo.

The kindergarten program, on the other hand, is solely dependent on the local budget for PSS. This fiscal year, PSS was appropriated only \$30.1 million for personnel and operation.

Waldo said the program has to abide by its strict mandate of accommodating only up to 15 children in each session.

He described the Head Start program—along with the special education program—as the most regulated programs of PSS. He disclosed that come 2013, the federal granting agency will require at least 50 percent of all Head Start personnel to possess bachelor's degrees.

"What this means is...once they obtain their degrees, their salary will be adjusted equivalent to those other classroom teachers in kindergarten and public schools," Waldo said.

According to Sablan, eight of the 32 Head Start teachers already have degrees and she is optimistic that about half will be degree holders by 2013.

As for the kindergarten program, Sablan said that despite the Education Board's approval to hold full-day sessions for kindergarten classes, only three have so far implemented that: Sinapalo Elementary School, Tinian Elementary School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

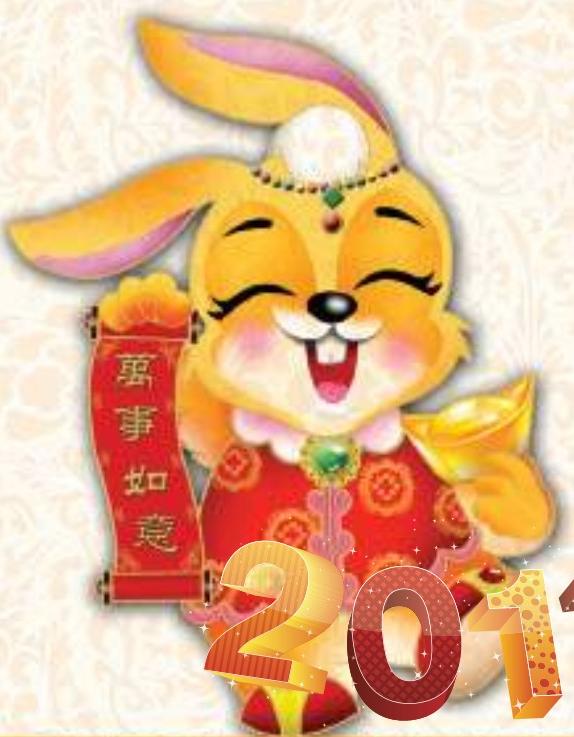
She said many schools have yet to enforce the new schedule because they are unprepared.

"It's really based on the schools' readiness because in order to implement full-day sessions, they need to look at the availability of classrooms and teachers. We are trying to accommodate them by doing double sessions to lessen the kids on the wait list...that's the goal," added Sablan.

Based on PSS' initial assessment, it needs 22 classrooms for its fulltime kindergarten program, 22 full-time classroom teachers, collateral equipment, and instructional materials that will support the curriculum of PSS.

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Ex-convict who ran over girlfriend with car gets 18 months

An ex-convict who ran over his girlfriend with a car when she jumped off to escape from further beating was sentenced yesterday to 18 months in prison, with no possibility of parole.

Mario M. Reyes was sen-

SHEFA releases 83 checks to scholars; 335 check requests remain pending

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance released this week 83 checks for its grant-in-aid scholars. A total of 67 checks were disbursed to recipients enrolled at the Northern Marianas College, while the remaining checks were ready for pick up at the office.

As of yesterday, only two checks remained to be picked up, said SHEFA administrator Henry Hofsneider.

The 83 checks totalled \$99,600.

SHEFA provides \$2,000 for off-island recipients of its grant-in-aid program, while on-island students get \$1,200. The disbursement covers scholars for fall 2010.

Saipan Tribune learned that 31 check requests remain pending at the Finance Department. These cover five grant-in-aid off-island scholars and 26 on-island recipients. The request for these checks was submitted two weeks ago.

On Tuesday, SHEFA followed up with Finance its request for the release of 134 checks for scholars receiving assistance under the field of study program. A total of \$201,000 is expected to be disbursed for this check request.

SHEFA provides \$1,500 for both off-island and on-island recipients of its field of study program.

Hofsneider said another request for 170 checks will be submitted today to Finance, covering scholars under the field of study program. Total funds expected to be disbursed is \$255,000.

The administrator said that if all 335 pending checks are disbursed, this will cover both grant-in-aid and field of study scholars.

"Once all these checks are disbursed, we will start working on the incentive scholars," added Hofsneider.

He pointed out that all disbursed and pending checks cover the last fall semester and do not reflect any decrease in assistance. The SHEFA board had earlier voted to slash the amount it gives out in assistance due to funding constraints but this across-the-board cut will only come into effect in the spring semester.

SHEFA gets \$3 million yearly for its three scholarship programs.

tenced to the maximum of 12 months for assault and battery and six months for disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said that Reyes' sentence shall run consecutively and that there will be no parole. This means that Reyes will serve a total of 18 months in prison.

"He's a batterer and a violent man," said assistant attorney general Shelli Neal, who prosecuted the case against Reyes. She said that placing Reyes on probation does not work. Reyes was on probation for assaulting the same victim twice when he committed these latest offenses.

Govendo ordered the 41-year-old Reyes to pay a \$500 fine, and restitution to the victim for her medical bills.

Reyes' counsel, assistant public defender Richard Miller, had recommended a sentence of one year in prison.

During the jury trial last month, Reyes was acquitted on

charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery. The judge, however, found him guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Police said the victim sustained abrasions and bruises on the right side of her face, hands, and abdomen. Her right collarbone was also fractured when the car ran over her.

Police reports state that the victim and her then boyfriend Reyes were heading to San Vicente on the night of April 29, 2010, to purchase "ice" when Reyes, after using her cell phone, asked her about the numbers on her phone, charged in the murder of Elau-

dio Laude and kidnapping of his friend Nilo Rivera in November 1992. Laude and Rivera, both Filipinos, were savagely beaten by the group. Rivera was able to escape, but Laude died, his mangled body found the following morning on the side of a road and his abandoned car recovered at another location.

Fearing for her life, the victim jumped out of the car, but Reyes grabbed her shirt, causing her to go under the car as it was moving.

The victim said she begged Reyes to bring her to the hospital but he didn't bother to do so. It was the defendant's mother who took the victim to the hospital when they returned to his house in Dandan.

Reyes was one of six persons charged in the murder of Elau-

dio Laude and kidnapping of his friend Nilo Rivera in November 1992. Laude and Rivera, both Filipinos, were savagely beaten by the group. Rivera was able to escape, but Laude died, his mangled body found the following morning on the side of a road and his abandoned car recovered at another location.

The Ninth Circuit ordered a new trial after the Office of the Attorney General failed to investigate a confiscated letter apparently written by Reyes that asked his co-defendants to testify against Bowie. In that letter, Reyes admitted to killing Laude.

According to the OAG, when the reversal came out, Reyes had already served 15 years and nine months in prison.

The case against Bowie was never opened for a new trial. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Fund ordered to pay US govt part of convicted ex-CRM official's pension

The federal court has ordered the NMI Retirement Fund to pay the U.S. government \$100 per period from the retirement pension of a former Coastal Resources Management official who was convicted in 2007 of wire fraud.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman said the

\$100 payments will be directly taken from Benny K. Pangelinan's pension and shall continue until his debt to the U.S. government is paid in full.

"It is further ordered that any amounts which the [Fund] may be holding pursuant to the writ of continuing garnishment shall immediately be turned over to the Clerk's Office,

with the intent of Public Law 16-51.

"We have to approve the extension request but again, I hope the secretary will really get down to the intent of the law.

...The Legislature asked for this law to be signed because we're concerned about the hospital operations. We want it to be run efficiently like any other private hospitals," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Legislature has yet to formally respond to the DPH secretary's letter as of yesterday. The law allows the DPH secretary to ask for the transition period to be extended.

Villagomez said the current financial crisis the CNMI is facing "has taken all of our attention into addressing how best to continue the delivery of care under difficult times."

"In addition, there are some technical aspects of the public law that we are closely reviewing and may necessitate asking for some amendments to the current law. Because of these issues, I am hoping that I be allowed the needed 180 days to comply with the imple-

mentation of Public Law 16-51," Villagomez told Manglona and Cabrera in his two-page letter.

To date, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to appoint or nominate four of the seven members of the board of trustees.

Under the law, the corporation and DPH shall execute a memorandum of understanding for the orderly transfer of personnel, property and funds to the corporation within 365 days.

The measure was introduced by Fitial's former gubernatorial opponent, Heinz Hofsneider and his running mate Arnold I. Palacios, during the 16th Legislature.

Lawmakers who supported the bill said this stands as one of the most significant pieces of legislation and represents the first step toward creating a health care system that is independent, professionally managed, financially accountable, and capable of meeting the pressing health care needs of the community.

One year later, the bill's intent has yet to be realized.

ness and Foreign Workers Division, led the USCIS outreach session, with the support of Haith, Ecle, and Darlene Kutara.

On Tuesday night, there were at least 88 who signed up on the attendance sheet at the USCIS outreach session. Last night, the number dropped to 36. The CNMI has some 500 foreign investors.

Another Chinese investor who owns a hardware store said among her main concerns is a lack of guarantee that she could be allowed to return to the CNMI after visiting China after obtaining a CNMI-only E-2 status while still in the CNMI.

"They said I should go to the U.S. embassy in China, but there's no guarantee. What if I don't get the visa, what will happen to my business on Saipan?" the investor said in an interview after the USCIS outreach session.

Many of the audience's questions were about travel restrictions, as well as advance parole or parole that allows foreigners to return to the CNMI after traveling from a non-U.S. country or a U.S. territory or state, respectively.

A Russian investor, during the outreach session, asked what documents she needs to have in her possession when she needs to come back to Saipan after traveling to Russia while her CNMI-only E-2 status application

is being processed.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said many foreign investors with small businesses in the CNMI are worried that even after residing and investing in the Commonwealth for a decade or two, they would have to leave after 2014 if they are unable to come up with additional investments to be able to meet the "substantial investment" that a regular E-2 status requires.

"As you know, the economy of the CNMI is down so a lot of businesses here have reduced their investments," he said.

Syed, whose group represents hundreds of foreign workers as well as foreign businessmen, said they will continue to advocate for improved immigration status for foreign workers and businesses that have been lawfully in the CNMI for a number of years.

"Once there's improved immigration status for long-term foreigners, that will help stabilize the economy. ...Many of the businesses here rely on foreigners who have been here for years who, without improved status, could be sent home," he said.

For more information about the CNMI-only E-2 investor rule, visit www.uscis.gov or <http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=5&newsID=105643>.

nia, announced that it is recalling about 34,373 pounds of Nature's Harvest and Organic Harvest organic ground beef products that may be contaminated with e-coli O157, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

E. coli O157:H7 is described as a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration,

victims: Pang Hong Cabrera, Renato Batallones, Conrad M. Sablan, Sachiko Adachi, and Gene Oden.

The U.S. government and Pangelinan agreed to have the Fund take part of his pension and pay it to the U.S. government.

The Fund had objected, stating that

Managaha gets green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. DEQ

at the time of the service of the writ of garnishment it had in its custody, control or possession a lifetime retirement pension belonging to Pangelinan, which is paid semi-monthly in the amount of \$916.

The federal court denied the Fund's objection. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DPH

From Page 1

Public Law 16-51, signed on Jan. 15, 2010, gave DPH one year to transition into a corporation. But in a Jan. 18 letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Villagomez asked that he be allowed to extend the transition period for 180 days.

Public Law 16-51 is supposed to provide autonomy and management flexibility to DPH with the creation of a seven-member board of trustees to provide advice and assistance to the chief executive officer. It calls for the establishment of a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. within 365 days—which is supposed to be by middle of this month.

Manglona, in an interview yesterday, said the Legislature has no choice but to approve the DPH secretary's request but he said the department should take "more aggressive steps" to comply

INVESTOR

From Page 1

old from \$150,000 to \$50,000, so that many of the existing foreign investors in the CNMI could become eligible to apply for this investor status.

Villacrusis said he, just like other foreign investors, are thankful that they only need to have at least \$50,000 in investments to be able to apply for a CNMI-only E-2 visa.

"But the problem is, that's good only until Dec. 31, 2014. After that date, we have to apply for the regular E-2 visa, which requires a 'substantial' investment. And they're not telling us how much investment we need to meet that 'substantial' investment requirement," the businessman from the Philippines said.

USCIS field director Walter Haith and Lynette Ecle from the California Service Center said the determination of a "substantial" investment is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and depends on the "totality" of the application filed.

Villacrusis was among the individuals who showed up at the USCIS outreach session on the investor rule at the American Memorial Park auditorium last night.

Washington, D.C.-based Kevin J. Cummings, chief of the USCIS Busi-

ness and Foreign Workers Division, led the USCIS outreach session, with the support of Haith, Ecle, and Darlene Kutara.

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The federal court denied the Fund's objection. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Managaha gets green flag

assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

The division analyzed a total of 11 samples from Managaha this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (*DEQ*)



AQUACULTURE SYMPOSIUM

Neil A. Sims, president of Kona Blue Water Farms in Hawaii, addresses the participants of the Open Ocean Cage Culture Symposium yesterday at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Hall.

See story on Page 5.

PAYROLL

From Page 1

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately confirmed yesterday that this week's payroll will be delayed again for non-critical service personnel.

"Critical service and federally-funded personnel will be paid on time," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Employees holding critical positions include doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers and corrections officers.

Government collections have been on the decline, while deficit continues to go up. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 alone—from October to December—the government has estimated a \$6 million deficit, Inos said. But he said January collections are proving to be an improvement over the previous months' collections.

"We are seeing some slight improvement in January so that could shift the thing, that's why we're not sure whether to make [quarterly allotment] adjustments right away," Inos said.

The administration was poised to reduce the quarterly allotments to

agencies but due to slightly improved collections, this has been put on hold.

Inos said the administration hopes it does not need to cut quarterly allotments, but this always depends on cash collections.

The former Finance secretary said the improved collections are partly due to the quarterly business gross revenue tax payments due by the end of this month.

"Taxes are coming in already," he said, adding that the administration hopes that January collections could "surpass" the October collections.

Payroll has been delayed at least nine times since June 2010 because of severe cash shortage. Most of those affected are also subject to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2011.

At least \$4 million is needed to make government payroll every two weeks. Almost half of this is for so-called critical government employees, including emergency personnel at the Department of Public Safety's Police and Fire Divisions, Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections and the Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Detention Unit.

a "Use or Freeze by" date of either 12/28/10 or 01/06/11; 16-oz. Nature's Harvest Ground Patty packages containing four 4-oz. patties with a "Use or Freeze By" date of 12/30/10 or 01/08/11.

Last year, the CNMI pulled out several items from shelves as a result of FDA recall orders that included certain brands of eggs, infant milk products, and contact lenses.

GROUND BEEF

From Page 1

(1 lb) ground beef items.

The bureau statement said that all recalled items were from Saipan and that inspections are ongoing on Tinian and Rota.

Earlier this month, First Class Foods Inc., of Hawthorne, Califor-

nia, announced that it is recalling about 34,373 pounds of Nature's Harvest and Organic Harvest organic ground beef products that may be contaminated with e-coli O157, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

E. coli O157:H7 is described as a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea, dehydration,

'Aquaculture can become the industry of the future'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 180 individuals, including business representatives and government officials, attended the first day of the Open Ocean Cage Culture Symposium at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Hall yesterday morning.

The symposium, sponsored by the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research,

'Smuggling of illegal Chinese pesticides prevalent in CNMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The smuggling of illegal Chinese pesticides to the CNMI via airplanes is a prevalent problem on the islands, according to assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler, who said this is particularly common among Chinese farmers here.

Schuler highlighted this issue in his recommendation to impose a two-year probation sentence on Bo Hu Li, who pleaded guilty to a count of knowingly distributing an unregistered pesticide.

A federal grand jury indicted Li on two counts of alleged importation of undeclared pesticides from China.

Li's sentencing is on Feb. 22, 2011.

Schuler said the use of unregistered pesticides in the CNMI is a serious problem that must be addressed. "The public must know that pesticides are regulated, and that offenders will be punished," he added.

IRS: Defunct MGM factory, Tinian Dynasty owe \$317K in federal taxes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has disclosed that the defunct Marianas Garment Manufacturing and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino owe more than \$317,000 in federal taxes.

IRS filed Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a notice of federal tax lien on MGM and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, saying these two have unpaid federal taxes in the amount of \$214,277.63 and \$103,091.41 respectively.

IRS said they are giving notice that taxes (including interest and penalties) have been assessed against MGM and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and that they have made a demand for payment of this liability to no avail.

"There is a lien in favor of the United States on all property and rights to property belonging to [these taxpayers] for the amount of these taxes, and additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," IRS said in the notice.

The records show that MGM has an unpaid balance

Extension and Education Services and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, aims to present and discuss information about raising high-value fin fish species in off-shore cages.

In his opening remarks, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos recognized the Commonwealth's potential and the economic opportunities that come in developing this highly profitable industry.

Inos said the aquaculture industry can become "the industry of the future."

Schuler said prosecuting pesticide violations to conviction, even if misdemeanors, will serve to publicize this illegal activity and deter wrongdoing.

Schuler said that Li shipped unregistered pesticides from China to Saipan out of a desire to grow better crops and make more money in the farming business.

"As an alien, defendant understands that his status in the CNMI is predicated in part on his good behavior and that any future violations, if not the instant violation, will likely subject him to removal," he pointed out.

Although the application of unregistered pesticides creates a dangerous situation for consumers, Schuler said there are no identified victims in this case, so there is no need to provide restitution.

Schuler said that Li, a poor Chinese who lacks adequate education, arrived on Saipan in 1995 as a farmer. Li lives with his wife and many children on the island. He has two brothers living here.

"The Northern Mariana Islands hold so much promise and potential for economic opportunities through our relatively undisturbed ecosystems," said Inos.

Through the symposium, Inos said, the CNMI will be better informed about the challenges concerning aquaculture research, environmental impacts, local and federal regulations, and investment opportunities.

Inos said the aquaculture industry can become "the industry of the future."

"We certainly look forward to the establishment of a viable aquaculture industry and successful business ventures that will provide much needed economic activity and job opportunities for our people," he added.

'Very viable'

In an interview at the symposium, NMC-CREES aquaculture specialist Michael M. Ogo said that open ocean cage culture in the CNMI is very viable and could be the solution to the challenges of onshore or land aquaculture.

Ogo told *Saipan Tribune* that with the rising cost of fuel and utilities, the production cost of onshore aquaculture has become more and more expensive.

"With open ocean cage culture, you don't have to worry about energy costs. Also, water would be limitless once you bring aquaculture to the ocean," he said.

According to Ogo, offshore aquaculture is particularly fea-

sible in the CNMI since it is surrounded by deep waters with pristine ecosystems, with the best area for the open ocean cage just outside the reef.

With the islands' proximity to the East Asian market, Ogo said aquaculture in the CNMI would potentially bring a high return of investment but noted that this kind of venture would require between \$5 to \$10 million.

Impediments

Neil A. Sims, president of Kona Blue Water Farms in Hawaii, emphasized that the CNMI must address the lack of legislation, technology, and capital before it could actually establish offshore aquaculture industry.

In his presentation yesterday at the symposium, Sims stated

the need for an open ocean mariculture legislation that should take into account a clear permit application process, an opportunity for public reviews and comments, reasonable environmental standards, requirements for monitoring and reporting, and providing a secure tenure for investors for up to 15 to 20 years.

According to Sims, conducting research studies and acquiring sufficient capital to establish offshore aquaculture must also be addressed before dealing with challenges like freight cost for feeds, shipping cost of products, and global competition.

Sims added that the CNMI must also perform data collection and demonstration that can be financially subsidized by federal agencies that provide grants for these ventures.

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Life in Motion

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 151 R 01, containing an area of approximately 8,049 square meters, more or less, situated in Sabana, Rota. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT&E, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, and Masao Miyamoto. The President of the Corporation is Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. The Treasurer is Lawrence P. Knecht. The Secretary is Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of maintaining and operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas, and activities related thereto. The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; in Songsong, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Sabana, Rota.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksional 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku guini ha nái'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tano' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapruabar i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas gi sigun ni mamánda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusyon i Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Masehu háyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerát siña ha na'hálom i imfotmasion, opíñon, pat testamóñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tano' pupbliku. Sigi más mo'na mapribeniyyi ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiy pettananes imfotmasion ni madimánda ni debi na mapupbliku.

- i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskrite komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 151 R 01, kinonsiste árian kási guaha 8,049 square meters, potlumenus más, ni gaige gi Sabána Luta. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumiuhha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikila i Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation d.b.a. IT & E, i CNMI na Korporasion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Korporasion si Ricardo C. Delgado, Jovino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, yan si Masao Miyamoto. I Presidenten i Korporasion si Ricardo PR Delgado. I Treasurer si Lawrence P. Knecht. I Sekritári si Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. I manatikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i maneran maintaining yan operating telecommunications transmitters, antennas yan maseha hâfa na mana'achule' na aktibidåt siha guih.
- v. I teman i kontråtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 åños.
- vi. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontråta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha, gaige gi segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vii. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tano' pupbliku siha gi Sabána, Luta.
- viii. I Sekritárion i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinige' i imfotmasion, opíñon yan testamóñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Fibreru 4, 2011 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaol eghús fálw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulugħul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Táil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóokka eyoor máfyeyer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghir, awewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkateéél.

- i. Pomwol akkilon falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 151 R 01, ebwe eyoor walangaras ebwughuwa faigh me tiwoow (8,049), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Sabana Luuta. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischi.
- ii. Schéchéel schóol nge Micronesian Corporation d.b.a. IT&E CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil assamwool kkaal mellol Corporation nge Richard C. Delgado, Juvino G. Lorenzo, Jr., Jose Ricardo PR Delgado, E. Norbert Garrett, Robert R. Anderson, Jose S. Dela Cruz, John Noel Doherty, Keiji Ikemura, me Masao Miyamoto. Samwoolul Corporation nge Jose Ricardo PR Delgado. Treasurer nge Lawrence P. Knecht. Sekkeretoria nge Fe D. Vicencio.
- iii. Schóol aweweel pomwol akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge Mr Lawrence P. Knecht.
- iv. Schóol akkilon ebwe ammwela bwuley me ayoora Telecommunications transmitters, antennas, me lamal kka eyoor Tool aighúghul pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoo ráagh (25 years).
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwugħi mereel Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwoval pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building lloq Tuturam, Seipél; aruwoval pwó (2nd floor) mellól Songsong, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúluyó.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esaál bweibwogħi mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwugħil ischil māngmáng, aingiingil mereel amweyut mmwal Māäischigh (February) 4, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipel, Luuta, Tchúluyó.

BILL WANTS VOTING STUDENT REPS ON NMC BOARD

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill calling for the reorganization of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents was pre-filed yesterday in the Senate, seeking to give student representatives equal voting rights in all board decisions.

At present, the board is composed of seven voting members who are all appointed by the governor. Senate Bill 17-57 proposes to increase the number to nine, giving two voting slots for student representatives, one of whom will be elected by their peers.

The bill's author, Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao, believes that "the best way for the Board of Regents to consider the sentiments and concerns of the students of the college is to have voting student members on the board."

'EXEMPT MEDICAID FROM 16 WORK-HOUR CUT'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to exempt employees at the Medicaid Office from the 16-hour cut per payday and unpaid holidays, citing the workload needed to serve the office's 14,700 clients.

Medicaid personnel review and process applications filed, to determine whether low-income individuals and families are eligible for medical assistance from the federal government.

Santos, in an interview, said because the Medicaid office on Saipan also serves Rota and Tinian, there is greater

full-time student at the college who has completed one year of study or at least 24 credits and has maintained good academic standing. This appointment, as proposed, does not require the governor's appointment and Senate consent.

One of the proposed student rep shall be the president of the ASNMC and the other will be the winner of an election among students at the college.

The bill requires any student member candidate must be nominated by a petition signed by 100 students attending NMC.

For the president of ASNMC, the term is limited to one year, while the person who wins the election will get a guaranteed two years. However, they can be terminated by the board if they cease to maintain a full-time class schedule or fall in their academic standing.

'EXEMPT MEDICAID FROM 16 WORK-HOUR CUT'

the governor, Santos said Medicaid office employees are overwhelmed with work as applications and other pertinent issues flood their office on a daily basis but instead of hiring additional manpower, Medicaid has been subjected to work hour cuts.

"As public servants, we cannot overemphasize the need to provide quality public services to our people, including health and medical needs, most especially those who are without or unable to afford the exorbitant cost of medical/health insurance. At present, this is the reality in our Commonwealth, thus the majority of our people resort to federal assistant and/or programs that are available to them," Santos told Fitial.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that with the economy still in bad shape and with work hour cuts and unemployment, Medicaid personnel will all the more be overwhelmed with the number of Medicaid assistance applications.

She also told the governor that until the Legislature acts on pending legislation that would provide a clear definition as to which government offices are critical, Medicaid personnel should be exempted from any government austerity measure.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-OPA-046**
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2011 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.
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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLÁN
DIRECTOR, P&S

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Pacific Marine & Industrial Corporation (PMIC), Power Plant 4 (PP4) is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified construction firm in the island for:

CONSTRUCTION OF:

- NEW SECONDARY CONTAINMENT BERM FOR HIGH SPEED DIESEL ENGINE AND TRANSFORMER AREA
- NEW FUEL PIPELINE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT BERM
- IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING BERMS INSIDE THE POWER PLANT 4 FACILITY LOCATED AT CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN CNMI.

Interested firms are required to submit proposals to PMIC PP4 Office outlining their ability to supply EQUIPMENTS, MANPOWER and MATERIALS for the above mentioned projects.

Site inspection and copies of the BERM Engineering Drawing can be picked up at PMIC PP4 facility site from Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Deadline for submission of proposals is on February 2, 2011. Target date for the start of work is on February 14, 2011.

Proposed completion of the project is on March 15, 2011.

For more information, contact:

Richard Cano
Plant Manager
Tel. (670) 322-6187

Carlito J. Marquez
Improvement Project Manager
Tel. (670) 322-6181

Ex-convict is permanently removed from CNMI

Daniel Robert Johnny was removed from the CNMI on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, by federal authorities who took him into custody in the Superior Court.

Johnny was appearing for a preliminary hearing in a criminal case; he was charged with burglary, theft, and contempt of court for violating the terms of his release in a 2010 case involving a burglary and theft from 2009.

The Office of the Attorney General filed a motion to reduce Johnny's bail for the sole purpose of getting him into federal custody and removed from the Commonwealth permanently.

"It was a pleasure coordinating with the federal removal authorities; it could not have been a smoother process," said Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest. "The actions the OAG and USA took in the last week to remove

Mr. Johnny have resulted in a safer CNMI."

The Office of the Attorney General has confirmed with fed-

eral authorities that Johnny was, in fact, removed from the CNMI.

"I have learned that he arrived in Guam last night and

was taken to the Guam DOC and booked in," Ernest said. "The Office of the Attorney General will inform the court of

his removal and will be moving to dismiss the pending cases, as Johnny will not be allowed in the CNMI ever again." (PR)

Delta is the latest 2011 MMAC title sponsor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee has landed another title sponsor.

Delta Air Lines became the third title sponsor for the Marianas March Against Cancer, the largest fundraising activity of the Commonwealth Cancer Association that will be held this May.

Overall committee chair Dave B. Guerrero accepted the donation from Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Chris A. Concepcion and Esther Sound yesterday morning at the airport check-in counter.

Delta's donation include one roundtrip ticket to the U.S. mainland for one, one roundtrip ticket to Honolulu, Hawaii for one, and a travel voucher worth \$300.

Concepcion told *Saipan Tribune* that Delta has been a consistent title sponsor for the annual fundraiser since 2007.

"Delta is proud to continuously support the MMAC and help increase cancer awareness in the community," said Con-

cepcion, who also serves as the 2011 MMAC Public Relations Committee chair.

"With the high incidence of cancer diagnosis on Saipan, we will continue to support MMAC and all cancer awareness efforts," added Sound.

Guerrero expressed appreciation to Delta Air Lines for becoming their third title sponsor in less than a month. "We're glad that Delta came on board. They've been a great help to MMAC," he said.

According to Guerrero, Delta's donation will be among the prizes to be raffled off during the event tentatively scheduled on May 13-14.

Guerrero disclosed that the raffle tickets as well as the luminaries, priced at \$5 each, will be made available for purchase from all MMAC teams and committee members by the second week of February.

He said all proceeds of the sales will be used to fund the fight against cancer through patient/survivor assistance, outreach and advocacy, and prevention support programs.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
2011 Marianas March Against Cancer overall chair Dave B. Guerrero, center, accepts the roundtrip ticket to Hawaii and continental U.S. as well as a \$300 travel voucher from Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Chris A. Concepcion and Esther Sound yesterday morning.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, January 28, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the ARFF Classroom at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 1. Call to Order
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 2. Roll Call
- 4. Adoption of Minutes (December 9, 2010)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's Runway Rehabilitation Project Supplemental Agreement No. 1 (Standby Claims)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ January 26, 2011
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

MVA: \$22M worth of publicity from 'Oba'

» Major Japanese movie premieres on Saipan next week

The Northern Mariana Islands is expected to receive over \$22-million in media exposure as a result of "Oba: the Last Samurai," a Japanese major motion picture based on true life events that occurred on Saipan.

The movie will premiere in Saipan on Jan. 31, 2011, and chronicles the experience of Sakae Oba, the last member of the Japanese Imperial Army to surrender to U.S. forces on Saipan months after the World War II Battle of the Marianas concluded.

Through its monthly Japan trade newsletter, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has promoted the movie and its tie to Saipan to over 1,400 travel trade representatives throughout

Japan, as well as to key travel media outlets. The MVA is also working with 10 major Japanese media representatives who are flying into Saipan this weekend to report on the premiere and interview the lead actor, Yutaka Takenouchi.

"We've sent our full tourism press kit to all the media who will be visiting, and our Japan office is keeping in close contact with the studio Toho to ensure the destination message is included in all media coverage," said MVA Marketing Manager Bruce Bateman. "This means major exposure for our island brand, which is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss."

The MVA first met with the

producers of "Oba: the Last Samurai" in December 2009, and since that initial planning meeting, have continued to work with them on the film's development. In addition to providing historic maps, books, and other information about the Northern Marianas, the MVA assisted with the crew's location shooting on Saipan on July 10-17, 2010. While most of the film was shot in Thailand in early 2010, unique geographic scenes were shot on Saipan.

A private screening and sneak preview for major Japanese media was held yesterday (Jan. 24) by the film studio in Tokyo, with staff from the Japan office of MVA attending to rave reviews of the film. The movie has also sparked interest from tour agency Kinki Nippon Tourist (KNT), which is developing a

special tour package to Saipan, with Japanese tourists expected to visit the major sites shown in the movie. KNT's tour also offers a 300 Yen Discount coupon to view the movie.

"Despite our limited resources, we agree this tour program is a worthwhile promotion and are allocating a portion of the Japan office's baseline budget to support its development," said Bateman.

In addition, a special network TV program named "NEWS ZERO x Oba, the Last Samurai" will air on NTV network throughout Japan from 4:55 p.m. on February 6, 2011. The program, filmed in April and June last year, will tour Saipan with Takenouchi. In conjunction with the broadcast, MVA will distribute a nationwide press release announcing the release of the movie and feature the information on the MVA's Japanese website. (MVA)



THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



Last week's photo was identified as: from left, Jose T. "Joe" Limes and Vicente R. "Ben" Taitano. Photo taken in 1975. Identified by: Vivian Rogopes, Rick Muna, Remedio Cangco, Carmen Rubuenog, Marcia Santos, Agustin Taitano, Greg Omar, Elizabeth Concepcion, Frank Indalecio, Mariama Taitano, Cecilia Kileleman, and Shirley Calvo.

L O C A L

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 27, 1999

CPA seeks funding to repair breakwater

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has asked CNMI representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta for assistance in looking for sources of funding to be able to complete the \$25.5 million rehabilitation of Tinian breakwater. While the ports authority recognizes the need for its immediate repair, it cannot do anything to solve the problem because the rehabilitation is beyond its financial capability. As Tinian is heavily dependent on its seaport for trade and tourism, the ports authority expressed concern that the worsening situation may endanger the people's lives and disrupt their source of livelihood.

Saipan urged to form blood bank

A visiting Rotarian challenged yesterday the local community to form a blood donors bank which can be tapped during medical emergency situations since the island is geographically isolated from the rest of the world. Tom Ahillen, a businessman from Guam, said the measure will not only save lives but will also improve lives of those who donate blood. Moreover, shipping cost in transporting the blood is also reduced. "It's important for us. Important for the community. It's important for every human being," he told members of the Saipan Rotary Club during their weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel yesterday.

Jan. 27, 2000

DEQ defends chemical water testing

The Division of Environmental Quality yesterday maintained that the chemical water testing to be conducted in the CNMI is important due to the contamination of groundwater. In a press statement, DEQ noted that numerous man-made industrial solvents have been found in the limited amount of testing that has been performed on the island to date. In one instance, contamination was found at a concentration greater than 60 times the CNMI drinking water standard. "The potential risk of adverse health effects, ranging from gastrointestinal disorders to diseases of the liver, circulatory system, reproductive system and cancer, are very real and can no longer be ignored," DEQ said.

MVA asked to vacate airport space

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is asking the government's tourism agency to vacate the space it currently occupies at the Saipan International Airport to pave the way for the relocation of CPA's operations division. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the use of the Saipan airport building space has been extended by CPA to Marianas Visitors Authority's Field Operations Division. "[However] our operational needs have become such that we must kindly ask that the MVA find a new home for its Field Operations Division," said Mr. Salas in a letter to MVA Managing Director Perry J. Tenorio.

Jan. 27, 2003

More relief for Rota underway

House Rep. Daniel O. Quiguga is looking forward to expediting the repair of ruined infrastructures on Rota now that legislation authorizing the \$2 million debt for this specific purpose has been enacted into law. The Rota congressman, in an interview, said immediate funding is needed specifically to begin reconstruction of the Rota Junior High School, which sustained considerable damage from Supertyphoon Pongsona last December. "I'm hoping that the funding will come soon so that we can mitigate the situation with respect to the recovery efforts. In particular, I was really surprised over the extent of the damage to the Junior High on Rota. If anything, I would like to have some immediate source of funding to convene reconstruction of the school building," said Quiguga.

Bill to task DPH with removing road kill

The Senate recently passed legislation that will make removing animal carcass from public roads a task for the Department of Public Health. Senate Bill 13-112 intends to take this responsibility away from the Department of Public Safety. According to the Senate, the DPS should stay focused on its community policing duties. Public Law 6-37 Section 3(d) as set forth in 2 CMC § 3412(d) has made removing animal remains found on public roads a secondary responsibility for the police department, SB 13-112 cited. The bill, authored by Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, contends that the DPS would be in a better position to concentrate on drug interdiction, homicide and armed robbery investigations and traffic enforcement if the DPH takes over the responsibility.

Man gets 10 days for beating up girlfriend

A man who assaulted his girlfriend and cut off her hair with a machete was sentenced to 10 days in prison.

Joseph Shane Aldan, 24, pleaded guilty to assault and battery Monday afternoon.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Aldan to a year in jail, all suspended except for 10 days, with credit for the 10 days he had already served in jail. That means Aldan immediately goes free. He will, however, be placed on one year of probation and

required to pay a \$100 fine plus court costs and probation fees.

Aldan also has to complete 80 hours of community service.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Aldan with assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea bargain. The remaining charge was dismissed.

The plea agreement stated that on Feb. 2, 2010 Aldan beat up the victim. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Kilili keeps Insular Affairs, wins Nutrition Subcommittee seats

CNMI Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has kept his seat on the critically important Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs Subcommittee and also retained membership

on the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee.

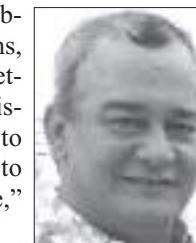
Sablan won the appointments during the organizational meeting of the Democratic caucus of the House Natural Resources

Committee Tuesday in Washington. All five of the insular area representatives are on the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the islands. In addition, two New Jersey representatives,

Frank Pallone and Rush Holt, joined the panel.

"Now that both the Republican and Democratic caucuses have made their subcommittee selections, I look forward to getting to work on the issues of importance to our islands—and to the nation at large," said Sablan.

The Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee,



Sablan

which are of particular importance to islands.

Sablan is new to the Agriculture Committee. But he was able to win one of the coveted slots on Agriculture's Nutrition and Horticulture Subcommittee when that Committee's Democrats organized on Tuesday.

"I have made no secret of my concern for families in the Marianas who are struggling to put food on the table," Sablan said. "The Nutrition Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the food stamp program, which I want to see strengthened and made more fair for Tinian and Rota. But I also want to make sure the Marianas is fully utilizing all the food programs that the

Department of Agriculture has to offer."

Sablan is also now a member of the Conservation, Energy, and Forestry Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee. "Making sure that rural areas, like the NMI, have sufficient, affordable electricity is part of the Subcommittee's responsibility," Sablan said.

"Small watershed projects, like Kagman, also fall under the jurisdiction of the Conservation, Energy, and Forestry Subcommittee. And, in addition, the full Committee works on other aspects of rural development, agriculture and small farm development, and aquaculture."

"There's lots of work to do," Sablan said, "and lots of legislative opportunities to improve the lives of people in the Northern Mariana Islands." (PR)

Guam's Bordallo to serve on two Natural Resources subcommittees

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Congresswoman Madeline Z. Bordallo said yesterday that she would serve on the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs and the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

In the 111th Congress, Bordallo served as chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. Given her current position as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, Democratic caucus rules prevented Bordallo from seeking the Ranking Member position on Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs

in the 112th Congress. Rules prohibit members from holding two subcommittee leadership positions.

Congresswoman Donna Christensen from the Virgin Islands was elected as the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Areas, while Congressman Rush Holt from New Jersey was elected as the Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs is responsible for all issues pertaining to wildlife resources, fisheries, oceanography, and insular areas. The Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources oversees American energy production

and mining on federal lands—both onshore and offshore.

"I look forward to working with Ranking Member Christensen, Ranking Member Holt, and all my colleagues on both my subcommittees," said Bordallo. "I will work closely with Ranking Member Christensen to address a variety of issues impacting Guam and that are germane in this Committee. In particular, I will work with her to ensure that the new Guam-CNMI visa waiver program is implemented in a manner consistent with Congressional intent. Further, I will work with subcommittee members to continue its oversight of the military build-up and assessing the impacts to our local infrastructure and socioeconomic impacts." (PR)

Interior backs Close Up Foundation's youth programs with \$262.5K grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed yesterday a \$262,500 grant to the Close Up Foundation.

The funding provides continued support for civic education programs that work with students, teachers and administrators from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Babauta

Foundation and its initiatives," said Babauta. "Participants are provided unmatched leadership development experience and activities that promote educated and civically active young adults. Students are given the opportunity to explore and are exposed to a range of subject matters and comprehensive skills training. The program encourages open dialogue and exists as a wonderful forum for our youth to exchange ideas and enhance their rich and diverse understanding of our democracy."

Timothy S. Davis, president and CEO of the Close Up Foundation, said they are excited to continue their program for students and teachers from the insular areas.

"Over the last two decades, Close Up has brought these young people and their teachers from the islands to Washington to participate in its renowned civic education program. (DOI)

Our island participants add so much diversity and depth to our program. They educate their fellow students and teachers by offering their unique political and cultural perspectives to the public policy debate in which the nation is engaged," said Davis. "We are also pleased that the grant will allow Close Up to expand our summer student civic education programs to additional communities this summer."

The Close Up Foundation, founded in 1971, is a nonprofit organization that educates and inspires young people to become informed and engaged citizens. Close Up provides challenging, hands-on civic education programs that positively impact student civic attitudes and give teachers valuable insights to take back to classrooms nationwide. Each year Close Up brings approximately 15,000 high school and middle school students and their teachers to Washington to participate in its renowned civic education

program. (DOI)

Students and teachers from across the insular areas spend a week in the nation's capital meeting with federal officials, engaging in substantive public policy workshops, current issues debates and visiting historical sites.

"Twenty three years later, the Office of Insular Affairs continues to support the Close Up



U.S. COAST GUARD/PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANGELA HENDERSON

Guam Fire Department chief Mike Aguon and Chief Petty Officer Jody Benavente, chief of communications with Rescue Coordination Center Guam, watch as Rescue 1 ends their 10-mile shoreline search at First Beach, Ipan, Talofofo Jan. 24, 2011, for two fishermen who were pulled out to sea after trying to set nets on Jan. 22, 2011.

USCG suspends search for 2 missing fishermen

GUAM—The Coast Guard has suspended the search for two fishermen reported missing near First Beach, Ipan, Talofofo, Guam Tuesday.

The Coast Guard notified the family members and officially suspended its active

searches for Joseph Castro, 25, and Evan Paulino, 26, at 6pm pending any further developments.

Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center Guam watchstanders coordinated search patterns for surface and air assets that searched an area

more than 25 miles along the coastline between Cocos Lagoon and Pago Bay on the south eastern side of Guam. The search patterns extended 10 miles out to sea from the reef line.

Rescue crews searched 175 square nautical miles, an area approximately the size of Guam.

Coast Guard cutters *Washington* and *Assateague*, Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Guam Fire Department Rescue I, Rescue II, Rescue III, and Guam Police Department

Anchor I saturated the water and coastline for four days.

"After exhaustive efforts searching with the Navy, Guam Fire Department, and Guam Police Department over the last few days, it's with a heavy heart that we suspend this search," said Capt. Thomas Sparks, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Castro and Paulino families."

Weather conditions during the search were winds of 17 mph and seas of three to five feet. (USCG)

FSA sets deadlines for livestock loss program

The USDA's Farm Service Agency reminded eligible livestock producers yesterday that Jan. 31, 2011, is the final date to submit applications for three 2010 livestock disaster recovery programs known as LIP, ELAP and LFP. These disaster assistance programs are part of the 2008 Farm Bill that provides a safety net for farms and ranches

subject to natural disasters.

Livestock Indemnity Program, LIP, applications must be submitted by this date to request benefits for 2010 eligible livestock losses. The same deadline applies for eligible producers to submit their Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish Program, ELAP, application for losses that

occurred during the 2010 calendar year. And the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, LFP, also has a deadline of Jan. 31 to apply for losses that occurred in the 2010 calendar year.

The notice of loss for 2010 livestock death loss and eligible losses under both ELAP and LIP programs must have been filed the earlier of 30 days after

the livestock deaths occurred in 2010 or 30 calendar days of when the 2010 loss was apparent. The producers must assure their 2010 LIP and ELAP applications, all supporting documentation and producer eligibility are received in their county office no later than Jan. 31, 2011, to be considered as "timely filed."

The ELAP program provides

losses to livestock but also to honeybees and farm-raised fish. In addition ELAP provides assistance to producers with eligible losses of livestock due to wolf depredation.

Both LIP and ELAP provide assistance to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have experienced livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather, including floods,

bazaars, disease, wildfires, and both extreme heat and cold. LFP provides financial assistance for forage and grazing land owners experiencing losses due to extreme drought conditions as determined by the National Drought Monitor.

For more information on these supplemental disaster assistance programs and others, visit the FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov. (USDA)

Opinion

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The doctor can't see you now

By BRADLEY WERTHEIM
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Three months ago, I finished my last 30-hour shift as a medical student. Although I'll be starting my residency soon, it's unlikely I'll ever again work such a marathon shift.

Last fall, the American Council for Graduate Medical Education released new standards governing the nation's 111,000 physicians in training. In the most controversial reform in the recent history of medical education, these celebrated overnight rites of passage for rookie docs will soon join the ranks of bloodletting and barber surgeons in medical antiquity.

In an attempt to decrease errors and improve patient safety, the new standards restrict the consecutive hours a first-year resident may work without sleep, from the customary 30 to 16. Meanwhile, experienced residents are limited to 24-hour shifts, with a recommendation to pursue "strategic napping" in downtime.

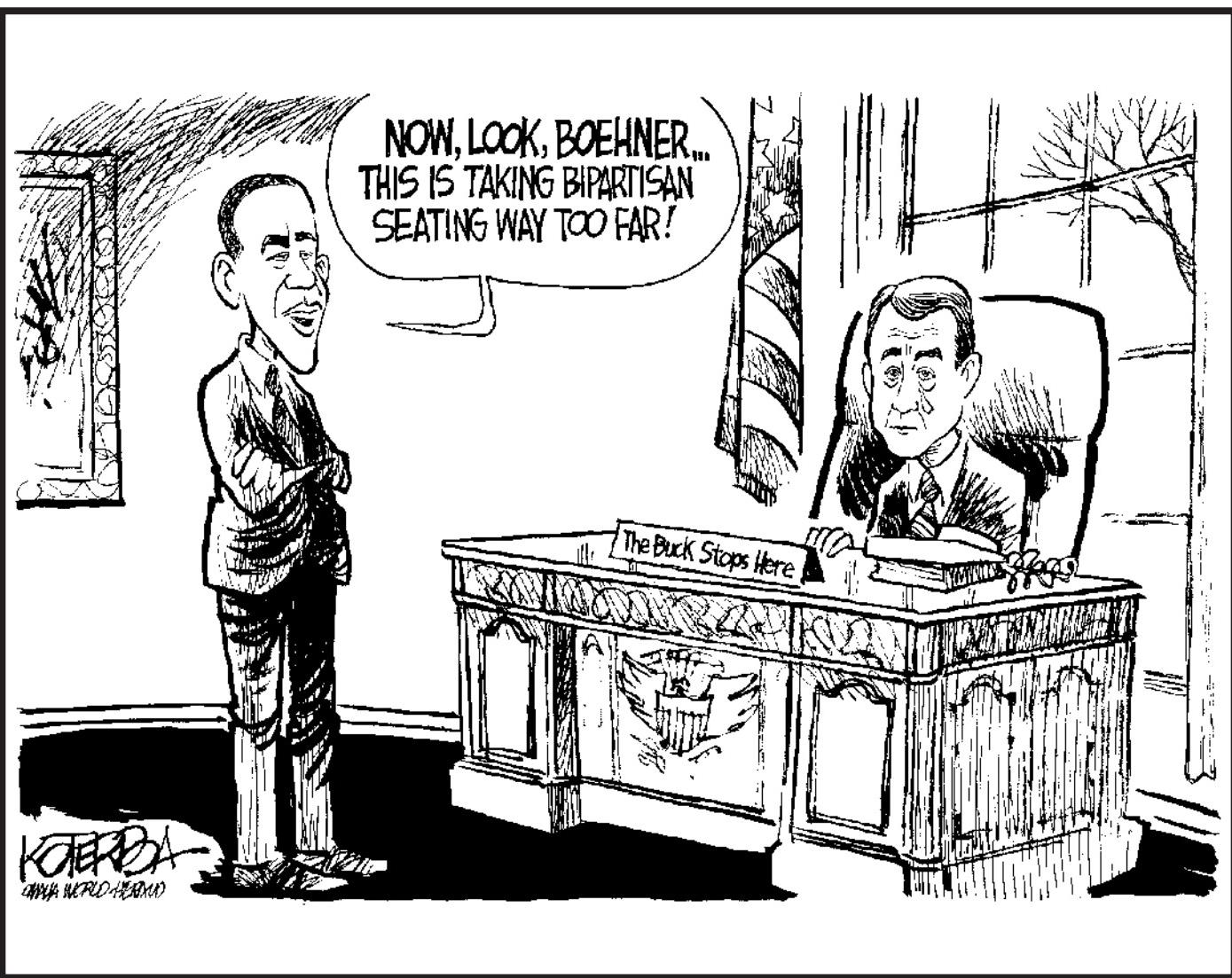
The measures are well intentioned but controversial. Critics fear that shortened shifts will increase the number of physician-to-physician handoffs that occur as residents change shifts, resulting in lost details and miscommunication that could cause errors and harm patients. Continuity of care is desirable because of the advantages of having a single physician caring for the same patient over time. Others charge that 16-hour shifts are insufficient for educational purposes.

Surprisingly, research evidence supporting duty-hour regulations is lacking. Even the council concedes that the 80-hour limit on the resident physician workweek, instituted in 2002, failed to yield conclusive effects—positive or negative—on patient outcomes, though researchers acknowledge this is a challenging metric to assess. Both sides of the debate offer compelling, albeit unproven, arguments championing patient safety.

Although I share concerns regarding the effect on patient care of more frequent handoffs, I certainly did not labor through medical school only to end up harming a patient because of my fatigue.

However, this impassioned debate overlooks a more insidious issue that may pose an even greater threat to patient well-being. Although young doctors work long hours for traditional and educational reasons, staffing requirements further underpin the argument for 30-hour shifts and 80-hour workweeks. The problem is simple: We have too many

See THE DOCTOR on Next Page



Eat, drink, human rights

When the White House invited me to the state dinner for Chinese President Hu Jintao, I knew that I was being used as a symbol—to signal a tougher approach on human rights. The Obama administration was widely seen as having flubbed the November 2009 summit in China. In the lead-up to his visit, President Obama had refused to meet the Dalai Lama, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton had insisted that human rights "can't interfere" with other U.S. interests in China. The administration hoped this soft approach would win points that could be cashed in at the summit, but instead it looked weak and unprincipled.

This time, the administration was determined to do better. Before the summit, Clinton gave a strong speech defending civil society and Internet freedom, and Obama met with human rights experts for advice. During the summit, Obama stood at Hu's side and stressed the "universal rights of all people." Mentioning freedoms of speech, press, association and religion, he anticipated the false claim that these rights are foreign impositions by noting they are all "recognized in the Chinese constitution." In response, Hu did not announce prisoner releases or offer concrete reforms, but he did repeat the party line that "a lot still needs to be done in China in terms of human rights."

The administration's decision to extend me an invitation reflected this new and more assertive approach—another statement that human rights should be a normal part of the U.S.-China conversation. That's what I wanted too, but I must admit I didn't have high hopes for the evening.

And things didn't start off auspiciously. As I approached Hu, I couldn't help feeling misgivings about meeting him in such glitzy circumstances. After all, this was a man whose government has launched an intensifying crackdown on dissent that began in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics and continues to this day. But I donned my diplomatic facade, explained that I represented Human Rights Watch and said that I hoped human rights groups could discuss abuses with the Chinese government in the same way we do with governments around the world, including the United States. He returned a blank smile, as if my comments were lost in the translation. The pace of the receiving line kept our conversation perfunctory, and he wasn't to be found during the cocktail hour.

But when it came time for dinner, I was pleasantly surprised. Rather than being relegated to one of the dinner's satellite rooms, I found myself seated in the main State Dining Room, at a table with the White House China director, Jeffrey Bader; the U.S. ambassador to China, Jon Huntsman Jr.; and China's ambassador to Washington, Zhang Yesui. This was another statement, and a strong one.

At the table, the conversation became more serious. I spent most of the evening immersed in a lengthy discussion with Zhang. This in itself was surprising. A prospective future foreign minister, Zhang

By KENNETH ROTH
Los Angeles Times

Kenneth Roth is executive director of Human Rights Watch. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



had avoided meeting with Human Rights Watch during his tenure in Washington and, before that, while he was China's ambassador to the United Nations. Rather than blanch at having me as his dinner partner, he launched into a spirited defense of China's imprisonment of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, who was the principal drafter of the pro-democracy Charter 08 and is now serving an 11-year prison term.

I said I found it puzzling that the Chinese government would prosecute a writer for merely expressing his peaceful views on reforming China. Zhang tried to convince me that Liu was dangerous, citing various positions that Liu had allegedly taken, none of which amounted to advocating, let alone inciting, violence. If the Chinese government does not like Liu's views, I suggested, it should rebut them, not make them criminal. Zhang insisted that these ideas, and Liu's promotion of them, endangered China's stability.

Neither of us convinced the other, but I came away knowing that, with the Obama administration's backing, I had been able to explain to a senior Chinese official why his government's treatment of Liu was a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression.

The conversation about Liu led to a broader discussion about human rights conditions in China: the progress that China has made; the great distance it still has to go. I accepted Zhang's point that critical observers must be conscious of China's context, but I noted that it would help if the Chinese government accepted more regular exchanges with human rights organizations. Zhang didn't dismiss this idea out of hand, but it was clearly a matter that would require assent from people above his pay scale.

After dinner, as I waited in the East Room for the superb jazz concert led by Herbie Hancock, I had a chance to chat further with Obama. I thanked him for being more outspoken on human rights in China and for finding a way to discuss the issue that was genuine and heartfelt.

But, of course, talk is only the beginning. Ultimately, the test of a dialogue's productiveness is a change in behavior. Given China's increasingly tough restrictions on basic freedoms, there is still a lot of work to be done.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

My 100-day agenda as NMC president

Last week I published key points in the cover letter included in my application for NMC president. This week I'll discuss important points of a 100-day agenda that I shared with the Presidential Search Committee and the NMC Board of Regents in my initial application for president. It outlines the steps I would take during the first critical days as president to help NMC get off to a fast start and emerge stronger and be better prepared to meet the challenges ahead during this crucial point in the history of the College.

Northern Marianas College has dealt with many obstacles since it was established in 1981, and now it is at a critical juncture that will require leadership to bring the college together to face its most difficult challenges. It is imperative that the new president identify the truly critical issues and establish a short list of top priorities to help keep everyone focused on the most pressing issues and solutions.

Obviously, WASC accreditation must be reaffirmed; however, I believe that WASC wants to see that the college is functioning properly, financially responsible, and moving in the right direction. Strong leadership can be demonstrated by making progress, as a college team, on a well-executed plan that accomplishes important goals, and which support the mission and vision of the college. The following is a general outline for the three phases of the agenda. The outcome will be a strategic plan that identifies the top three to five critical issues and goals the college must deal with in order to achieve sustainable growth.

PHASE ONE:

Familiarize myself with the current situation at NMC. One of the first tasks of a new president will be to get an accurate picture of the current status of the college. This will allow me to understand what things should remain the same, what should change, and how the college can meet the most important challenges ahead. During this step, I would also want to identify the critical issues, core competencies, and biggest untapped opportunities that are not currently being optimized.

1.2 Build relationships with key stakeholders and improve the relationships within the college. One of the first essential steps should be to heal the institution and restore confidence in the administration. The interim president has done a great job toward this process, and it must be continued. This could be accomplished by amending some of the wrongs that have occurred, honestly listening to concerns, being transparent and more tolerant, and allowing people to make mistakes without fear of losing their jobs. In addition, relationships should be restored or continued with key government entities and officials, as well and leaders in the business community. The object of this phase is to restore trust and confidence in the college so that there will be greater support for future initiatives.

1.3 Communicate expectations throughout the institution. Most problems occur when expectations are not understood or communicated properly. This communication process should be both up and down the organization, as well as with outside stakeholders. I would ensure that I understand the expectations of the board, the community and government leaders. The college functions in an interdependent relationship with all of its stakeholders and to work well together, we need to understand all our stakeholders' expectations.

Once there is mutual understanding, I would communicate my expectations to the college personnel to create greater alignment with the mission and vision of the college. A set of values may also be developed during this process so that everyone could easily judge their actions against the stated values. This would lead to greater accountability for everyone, most especially the president.

PHASE TWO:

2.1 Take steps to ensure that core competencies and vital programs at the college are operating at their full potential. The core competencies identified in Phase One are like the vital physical functions of an individual. Like a weak pulse from a failing heart, a specific weakness in a core competency will weaken all other functions of the institution because they are essential to the ongoing operations at the college. They cannot be neglected. I would ensure that the needed resources are available to enhance vital programs and core competencies, since they are essential to revenue creation.

2.2 Develop a plan for growth and revenue enhancement. Once a foundation of trust is developed, I would continue a dialogue with key stakeholders about the direction they feel the college should move in order to overcome threats and take advantage of opportunities. Even though I have my ideas, there are a multitude of great ideas that have been shared by others and need to be heard. This step has three purposes: first, to generate a large amount of excellent ideas for consideration; second, to get people focused and excited about positive outcomes; and third, to create greater buy-in from the community and college when the highest priority ideas are implemented.

Yes, we do have a strategic plan in place already, but like any good plan, it requires a periodic update after examining the many internal and external changes that have occurred—and there have been numerous changes and future challenges that were not apparent when the latest plan was developed. In a survey given to 32 people, several individuals identified finances and the budget as a major area of concern. Rising costs and additional cuts affect the college resources and affect the ability to implement goals; therefore, an updated plan should address this and other areas identified during Phase One.

2.3 Communicate the plan widely. Once the plan is developed with the top three to five goals identified, it must be communicated

By **RIK VILLEGRAS**
Special to the Tribune



Rik is applying for the position of president at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

widely throughout the college and community. This step is used to also gain commitment from key entities that can help achieve the plan. This is an ongoing process to ensure that the top goals are maintained and strongly supported.

PHASE THREE:

3.1 Create a scoreboard and systems that are easily understood and used to measure important actions that will lead to the success of the plan. The plan should have metrics to measure the progress of the goals and initiatives. The next step would be to develop a simple scoreboard that can be seen by everyone and used to show our success. It is essential that everyone knows the "score" so they can see how they are doing, as individuals and as a whole.

The next step would be to create systems and an environment that compels college personnel to take the appropriate actions to achieve the planned objectives. By setting up the right environment, it promotes intrinsic motivation where people take the initiative to do what they feel is best, and it offers a framework for people to move within and make empowered decisions.

3.2 Implement the plan. This is just the "do it" step. It also involves constant follow-up and follow-through to ensure the initiatives are being accomplished. However, if the correct system is established, the individuals monitor themselves and also perform the quality control function.

3.3 Monitor and measure progress along the way. Individuals should monitor themselves as they implement the plan, and there should also be a regular assessment to determine the plan's progress to achieve stated goals. This step would be used to celebrate the small successes and large victories. Individuals would be recognized for their efforts and self-initiation would be rewarded. A progress report could be posted for the public to view our progress and also used to demonstrate the vital, strategic link the College plays in the community. If all the other steps were done correctly, NMC would eventually become financially stable, graduate students who are top candidates of employers, and produce entrepreneurs who give back to the community.

diving tourists, nature lovers, fishermen who charter local boats, and other potential tourists are taking notice of the CNMI.

As, or even more important, is that the control of the wealth of the ocean that has provided for generation after generation of Chamorro and Carolinian families is protected from exploitation from outsiders. Cultural, traditional non-commercial fishing is not curtailed or changed in the bill. As a long time fisherman myself, as a grand prize champion of the Saipan International Fishing Derby, and as a person whose heart will always call the CNMI home, I am proud to see the shark fin bill on Governor Fitial's desk for signing. I know the whole island is proud and they should be. It is rare these days to see a bright spot, and this is surely one of them that will last for a long time.

William H. McCue
Wellington, FL

Letter to the Editor

A win for everyone

So much sad and depressing news these days, it's usually a dour event to watch the news or listen to the media or online world and local events. Few and far between are the bright spots. However there is one bright spot, one shining positive event that no outsider can take away from the islands. It came from a long time, well-respected local fisherman who has spent many hours on the ocean. His idea was told to other Chamorros, Carolinians and others on island who thought about the idea and asked for more information so they could make an intelligent, well-thought-out decision. That fisherman was Rep.

Diego Benavente. He worked closely with Sens. Jude Hofschneider and Paul Manglona. They spoke with all the respected members of the Senate and House and after some back and forth discussion they came to a unanimous conclusion.

It was a win for the people, a win for all of the business community, and a win for the ocean to protect sharks from becoming soup for shark fin soup. International media of all sorts have already picked up on the bill and praised it—and the proud name of the CNMI is mentioned in a positive light everywhere. Schoolchildren asked an international shark conservationist to visit the island and he does! He begins to film part of his next movie on island. The kids are featured in the local news, and learn more about the very ocean that islanders have depended on for thousands of years. The CNMI is now a shining bright light and people all over the world are hearing of the actions and seeing the islands in a newer, better way. Scuba

diving tourists, nature lovers, fishermen who charter local boats, and other potential tourists are taking notice of the CNMI.

As, or even more important, is that the control of the wealth of the ocean that has provided for generation after generation of Chamorro and Carolinian families is protected from exploitation from outsiders. Cultural, traditional non-commercial fishing is not curtailed or changed in the bill. As a long time fisherman myself, as a grand prize champion of the Saipan International Fishing Derby, and as a person whose heart will always call the CNMI home, I am proud to see the shark fin bill on Governor Fitial's desk for signing. I know the whole island is proud and they should be. It is rare these days to see a bright spot, and this is surely one of them that will last for a long time.

THE DOCTOR

From Page 10

patients and too few doctors.

Provided it survives legal and legislative challenges, the health-care reform law extends insurance coverage to 30 million Americans. And aging baby boomers are expected to double the population of elderly by 2030. Will we have enough doctors to accommodate them?

A June 2010 report issued by the American Association of Medical Colleges says no. In a model that accounts for the influx of newly insured patients, increasing utilization of doctor visits, decreases in physician working hours, modest growth of the resident workforce and greater use of nurse practitioners and physician assistants, a 130,600-physician shortage is anticipated by 2025, half of which will be primary-care doctors.

Even now, it can be challenging to find a primary-care doctor accepting new patients, and the current estimated shortage is only

7,400. Imagine the task in 2025.

Resuscitating the physician workforce requires collaboration between medical schools, professional organizations and government. Medical schools now are kindling interest in primary care and aiming to boost enrollment by 30 percent before 2018. For the first time since the 1960s and 1970s, new medical schools are being built. However, these new graduates will need residency programs to complete their training.

Few realize that these residency programs are mostly funded through Medicare and other government programs, and since 1997, the number of federally supported positions—and thus the annual number of freshly credentialed doctors—has been capped by Congress.

The health reform package includes admirable efforts to address physician shortages: improved funding for the National Health Services Corps, which trades student loan repayment for care rendered in underserved areas; payment incentives and training opportunities for primary-care doctors; and grants to medical schools to develop rural training programs.

However, lawmakers failed to increase the number of federally funded residency positions. Instead, they redistributed the number of unused slots in less-desirable training programs to more deserving hospitals that promise to train mostly primary-care and general surgery residents. A reasonable first step but one that amounts to a temporizing measure, not a cure.

Congress must lift the cap on residency funding to avert an imminent compromise of our physician workforce. The coming shortage will overwork doctors, both young and old; delay necessary patient care; and negate any potential safety gains afforded by new training regulations and future reforms. Medical school and residency training can last seven to 11 years, so prompt intervention is required to augment next decade's workforce.

Universal health care will succeed only if there are enough physicians to render it.

Bradley Wertheim, a student at Harvard Medical School, will begin his residency in internal medicine in July. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and windy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾76°

▲85° ▾77°

▲85° ▾77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲84 ▾77
Palau	Rain ▲87 ▾78
Yap	Thunderstorms ▲88 ▾77
Chuuk	Showers ▲85 ▾77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms ▲83 ▾77
Kosrae	Showers ▲86 ▾78
Majuro	Showers ▲84 ▾76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▾67
Beijing	Sunny	▲32 ▾11
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▾46
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▾69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▾32
Los Angeles	Windy	▲75 ▾48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84 ▾72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▾60
Miami	Sunny	▲71 ▾47
New York	Snow	▲36 ▾20
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲44 ▾34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▾26
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▾25
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▾39
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▾45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67 ▾49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲24 ▾12
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▾33
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲36 ▾27

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:06 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
7:06 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
1:02 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet
8:45 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM	Today	12:29 AM	12:10 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Friday	1:28 AM	1:02 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM	Saturday	2:26 AM	1:55 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM	Sunday	3:22 AM	2:51 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM	Monday	4:16 AM	3:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:29 AM	12:10 PM	Today	12:00 PM	1:00 AM
Friday	1:28 AM	1:02 PM	Friday	10:25 PM	1:00 AM
Saturday	2:26 AM	1:55 PM	Saturday	11:35 PM	1:30 AM
Sunday	3:22 AM	2:51 PM	Sunday	12:45 AM	2:15 AM
Monday	4:16 AM	3:46 PM	Monday	1:55 AM	3:25 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
</tbl

Shelter for homeless, runaway kids turns one year

A modest building in Susupe that has been quietly providing temporary shelter to the islands' runaway and homeless youth is marking its first year of operation.

The Basic Center Program, located right next to the Mount Carmel Church, is the first shel-

ter for runaway and homeless youth in the CNMI. It is a joint effort between the Ayuda Network Inc. and the Division of Youth Services and is patterned after Sanctuary Guam.

Basic Center program manager Joann T. Aquino said the shelter takes care of youth who

otherwise could not be accommodated at the DYS Emergency Shelter, which is for victims of child abuse, or at the Kagman Juvenile Unit, which is for youths who have committed crimes.

At the same time, it is not just for runaway children but also for youths with behavioral

problems.

"Many times, parents call DYS for help with the behavioral problems of their children and we help them with that. We have an MOA [memorandum of agreement] with the Community Guidance Center and we refer children and parents for counseling. We also have an MOA with schools," said Aquino.

She said the shelter accommodates youths from all over the Commonwealth, including from Tinian and Rota. They can stay at the shelter for a maximum of 21 days (three weeks).

"We want to tell the youth that there is such a place, a

safe haven for them. They do not need to be out on the street and they can come here and stay for free for 21 days. We will feed them," Aquino added.

Youths who run away from home and are in need of a temporary place to stay can call the BCP landline at (670) 235-5437 (KIDS).

The Crisis Hotline is 234-5100 (KARI-DAT) or 285-2780.

"Of course, we are required to notify parents if their child is there," Aquino said.

CONTACT INFO

BCP landline: (670) 235-5437 (KIDS)
Crisis Hotline: 234-5100 (KARI-DAT) or 285-2780

the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008.

BCP provides 24/7 temporary, safe, and emergency shelter care

to runaway and homeless youth for up to 21 days. It also provides support services to assist

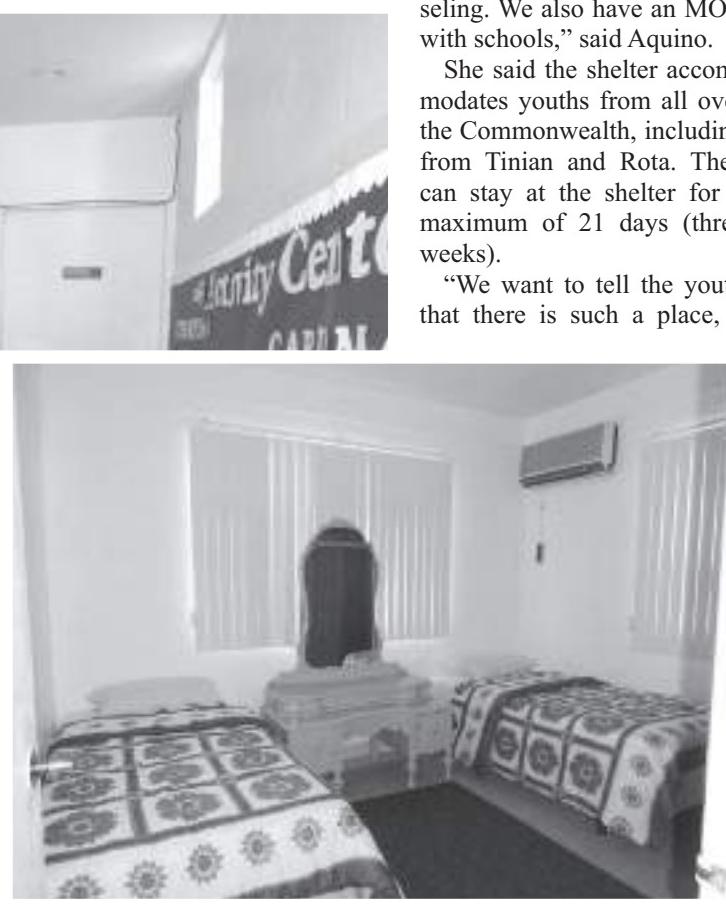
youth and their families in conflict crisis and bring the youth back to their families. It also provides encouragement to the family to solve their problems through counseling and other services.

Visit BCP's Facebook page ([basiccenterprogram](#)) to take a tour of the facility and support Ayuda's outreach efforts for the youth. The Ayuda Network chair is Lorraine T. Cabrera, while its executive director is Diana T. Camacho. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Picture shows the Basic Center Program's activity center, while the other photo shows one of the shelter's bedrooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Health care grant to benefit four Marshall Islands' atolls

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta recently signed a \$246,731 grant award providing support for the Four Atoll Health Care program in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The grant will provide funding to continue primary health care to members of the Enewetak, Bikini, Rongelap and the Utrik

communities.

This funding will provide a full time primary care physician on each of the four atolls to work in collaboration with a full time island-based health assistant. Through this grant, members of the four atoll communities receive routine and specialty clinic care, including dental, OB/GYN, immunizations, food safety and water treatment,

diabetic assessment and cancer screening. Assistance is also provided for the updating of medical instruments, equipment and supplies.

"Support for the RMI Four Atoll Health Care Program is vital in our efforts to address the healthcare needs of these communities. It remains essential to provide consistent, effective, and quality healthcare as we

bolster our attempts to prioritize and implement sustainable prevention programs that serve our most vulnerable populations," said Babauta.

The Four Atoll Health Care Program partially addresses the medical needs of those Marshall Island residents injured by the Nuclear Testing Program carried out in the RMI between 1946-1958. (*DOI*)



SHARK ADVOCATE

Rob Stewart, center, director of the acclaimed documentary *Sharkwater*, poses with Commonwealth lawmakers after a courtesy call to the Legislature on Tuesday.

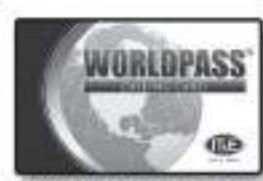
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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OLD WORLD PASS CARD



NEW WORLD PASS CARD

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Business

Consumer Confidence Index hits 8-month high

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer confidence hit an eight-month high in January. The increase suggests the rising spirits that fueled a holiday shopping boom are carrying over into the new year as people feel better about the job market.

The Conference Board said Tuesday its Consumer Confidence Index climbed to 60.6 this month from 53.3 in December.

While confidence is still far from the 90 that signals a healthy consumer mindset, the January improvement was better than expected. Some economists said the big tax relief package Congress passed in late December may have helped.

"So much for a ho-hum January," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "The signing

of the stimulus bill and all that it is intended to bring is buoying sentiment."

The \$858 billion package extended the Bush-era tax relief at all income levels for two years, provided tax breaks for businesses and reduced Social Security payroll taxes by 2 percentage points this year.

The Social Security reduction means an estimated \$1,000 in

additional after-tax income for the average family, according to White House estimates.

Other analysts suggested that the recent gains in the stock market and improving labor market conditions were trumping higher gasoline prices and falling home prices.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index showed home prices falling in most of America's largest cities and hitting their lowest point since the housing bust in nine markets.

The January rise in confidence is a good sign for consumer spending, said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

"A confident consumer buys a new car," he said. "A cautious consumer repairs the old one."

The January confidence figure was the highest last May's 62.7. At that time, consumer at-

titudes were improving as economic growth seemed to be taking off. However, the economy stalled in the summer, and so did confidence.

Confidence has been depressed by unemployment that surged during the country's worst recession since the 1930s and has stayed stubbornly high even though the downturn ended in June 2009. Confidence has not been above 90 since the recession began in December 2007.

In the Conference Board survey, the percentage of people surveyed who felt jobs were hard to get fell slightly to 43.4 percent from 46 percent in December. The share who expected to see more jobs six months from now rose to 16 percent from 14.2 percent.

That finding supported a separate report Monday from the National Association for

Business Economics that showed the number of firms expressing positive views on hiring had climbed to the highest level in 12 years.

While confidence has stayed weak since the recession ended in summer 2009, consumer spending has been picking up. During the 2010 holiday shopping season, sales increased at the fastest rate in six years.

Economists are hoping that consumer confidence will keep rising in 2011 as the economy improves and unemployment declines.

Employers added 1.1 million jobs for all of 2010, but the nation still has 7.2 million fewer jobs than it did in December 2007, when the recession began. Many economists expect the nation will create twice as many jobs this year as it did last year as economic growth picks up.



In this photo taken Dec. 6, 2010, visitors at shopping mall in Springfield, Ill. The Consumer Confidence Index rose in January to its highest point in eight months but remains well below the levels indicating a healthy economy.

Watchdog says overhaul didn't end future bailouts

WASHINGTON (AP)—A government official says the financial overhaul enacted last summer won't deliver on its promise to end bailouts.

Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky says in a report released Tuesday that recent comments by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other top regulators suggest the government would rescue banks if one of them threatened the broader financial system.

He says in the report that the prospects for recouping taxpayer money "are today far better than anyone could have dared to hope just two years ago." He says the Treasury Department is likely to recoup most of the \$160 billion of bailout money that remains in private hands.

But Barofsky notes that the bailout solidified the view among investors and bankers that the government will continue to save banks whose failures threaten to upset the financial system. The handful of largest banks got bigger during the crisis by absorbing weaker rivals. A single failure now would cause even more damage, Barofsky says.

"His acknowledgment serves as an important reminder that (the bailout's) price tag goes far beyond dollars and cents, and that the ultimate cost . . . will remain unknown until the next financial crisis occurs," Barofsky says in the quarterly report to Congress.

The Obama administration

touted its overhaul of financial rules as a prescription to end future financial bailouts. The law gives regulators the ability to police any financial company whose failure would be felt throughout the system, and to shutter institutions that pose a threat.

Bank regulators acknowledge that those tools might not be enough to avoid a bailout, Barofsky notes. He says the law depends heavily on decisions by many of the same regulators who failed to prevent the recent crisis.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman Sheila Bair has argued that the law will only prevent future bailouts if regulators force changes that would make big, complex banks easier to unwind.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said last year that even the public perception of a government guarantee for big banks would encourage the excessive risk-taking on Wall Street that inflated the housing bubble.

Unemployment rises in 20 states, falls in 15

WASHINGTON (AP)—The unemployment rate rose in 20 states last month as employers in most states shed jobs.

The Labor Department says the unemployment rate rose in 20 states and fell in 15. It was unchanged in another 15 states. That's nearly the same as in November, when the rate rose in 21 states, fell in 15 and was the same in 14.

The report is evidence that the job market is barely improving even as the economy grows. Most economists expect hiring to pick up this year, although the

unemployment rate will likely remain high.

Employers in most states didn't add any net new jobs last month. The number of jobs on employer payrolls fell in 35 states in December, the department said. Only 15 states reported gains. Layoffs have slowed dramatically in the past year, but hiring has yet to pick up.

Texas and South Carolina reported the biggest net job gains in December. Texas added 20,000 positions; South Carolina gained 9,000.

Nevada, still suffering from a massive housing bust, posted the nation's highest unemployment rate at 14.5 percent. That's up from 14.3 percent the previous month and the state's highest on records dating from 1976. California reported the second-highest rate, at 12.5 percent, followed by Florida at 12 percent.

North Dakota's unemployment rate of 3.8 percent was the nation's lowest. It's followed by Nebraska and South Dakota, with 4.4 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks mixed as Obama delivers speech

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets were mixed on Wednesday as President Barack Obama delivered a State of the Union policy speech, vowing to create jobs and spur growth in the world's No. 1 economy. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average fell 42.03 points, or 0.4 percent, to 10,422.39 in the morning session. Shares in Indonesia and Malaysia were lower. Elsewhere, South Korea's Kospi rose 0.8 percent to 2,102.89. China's Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.8 percent to 2,698.39. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was marginally down at 23,775.80. Shares in Singapore and Taiwan were higher.

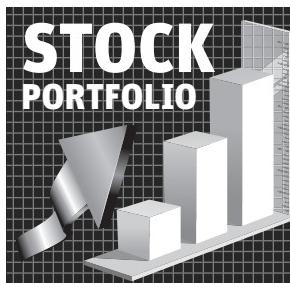
Google to hire more than 6,200 workers this year

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. plans to hire more than 6,200 workers this year—boosting its work force by at least a quarter—in the biggest expansion yet by the Internet's most profitable company. The hiring spree comes as

President Barack Obama emphasized the need for more jobs during his State of the Union address Tuesday night. Google CEO Eric Schmidt was among a group of business leaders who met with Obama last month to discuss ways to bolster the economy.

Disney confirms layoffs at game division

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday it is laying off employees and hiring an executive as it revamps its video game division to focus on mobile and social games and away from expensive-to-produce console games. The company didn't say how many people it laid off in the division, which posted its eighth-consecutive quarterly loss in the three months to Oct. 2, losing \$104 million on revenue of \$188 million. Disney said it had hired Adam Sussman to be senior vice president of publishing for Disney Games. He was formerly Electronic Arts Inc.'s vice president of worldwide publishing for mobile.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

11,977.19
-3.33
-0.03%

S&P

1,291.18
+0.34
+0.03%

NASDAQ

2,719.25
+1.70
+0.06%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.0109	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7964
British Pound	0.6267	Indian Rupee	45.6275
Canadian Dollar	0.9968	Indonesian Rupiah	9067.5
Chinese Yuan	6.585	Japanese Yen	82.7855
Euro	0.7371	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0569
		New Zealand Dollar	1.318

Philippine Peso	44.59
Singapore Dollar	1.2842
South Korean Won	1121.1
Swiss Franc	0.9611
Taiwan Dollar	29.051
Thailand Baht	30.935

Nation

Obama's 'Union': 'Move together or not at all'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pleading for unity in a newly divided government, President Barack Obama implored Democratic and Republican lawmakers to rally behind his vision of economic revival for an anxious nation, declaring in his State of the Union address Tuesday night: "We will move forward together or not at all."

The president unveiled an agenda of carefully balanced political goals: a burst of spending on education, research, technology and transportation to make the nation more competitive, alongside pledges, in the strongest terms of his presidency, to cut the deficit and smack down spending deemed wasteful to America. Yet he never explained how he'd pull that off or what specifically would be cut.

Obama spoke to a television audience in the millions and a Congress sobered by the assassination attempt against one of its own members, Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Her seat sat empty, and many lawmakers of competing parties sat together in a show of support and civility. Yet differences were still evident, as when Democrats stood to applaud his comments on health care and tax cuts while Republicans next to them sat mute.

In his best chance of the year to connect with the country, Obama devoted most of his hour-long prime-time address to the economy, the issue that dominates concern in a nation still reeling from a monster recession—and the one that will shape his own political fortunes in the 2012 election.

Eager to show some budget

Republicans urge Obama to join in cutting spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation faces a crushing burden of debt and is on course for an economic disaster without dramatic action to wrestle the budget deficit under control, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan said Tuesday in the Republican response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address.

And such spending cuts must start immediately as the price of getting GOP conservatives to cast a painful vote to increase the government's ability to borrow to pay its bills this spring, Ryan said.

"Our nation is approaching a tipping point. We are at a moment, where if government's growth is left unchecked and unchallenged, America's best century will be considered our past century," Ryan said in televised remarks.

toughness, Obama pledged to veto any bill with earmarks, the term used for lawmakers' pet projects. House Speaker John Boehner and other Republicans applauded. But Obama's promise drew a rebuke from his own party even before he spoke, as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the president had enough power and that plans to ban earmarks were "a lot of pretty talk."

Obama's proposals Tuesday night ranged across the scope of government: cutting the corporate tax, providing wireless services for almost the whole nation, consolidating government agencies and freezing most discretionary federal spending for the next five years. In the overarching theme of his speech, the president told the lawmakers:

"The future is ours to win."

In essence, Obama reset his agenda as he heads toward a re-election bid with less clout and limited time before the campaign consumes more attention.

Yet Republicans have dismissed his "investment" proposals as merely new spending. Republican Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, giving the GOP's response, said the nation was at "a tipping point" leading to a dire future if federal deficits aren't trimmed.

The Senate's Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said the president had gotten the message from the November midterm elections and "changed the tone and the rhetoric from the first two years."

Obama entered the House

"The days of business as usual must come to an end. We hold to a couple of simple convictions: Endless borrowing is not a strategy; spending cuts have to come first," Ryan added.

Ryan is the point man in the new House GOP majority's drive to rein in spending and bring the budget closer to balance. Tuesday's speech was the highest profile assignment yet for a wonky former congressional staff aide who has evolved into one of his party's brightest stars.

Ryan is best known for a controversial budget plan brimming with politically unpopular ideas like gradually turning Medicare into a voucher program, curbing Social Security benefits and allowing younger workers to divert Social Security taxes into private accounts. He says such tough steps are needed, given

intractable budget deficits that threaten America's prosperity.

On Tuesday, Ryan, who often peppers his speeches with straight talk about the need for painful cost curbs to benefit programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, did not offer such "tough love."

Ryan's plan, the "Roadmap for America," is so politically toxic that GOP campaign operatives urged candidates to shy away from it. Democrats went on the attack as soon as they heard Ryan was to deliver Tuesday's GOP response.

"Paul Ryan owes it to the national audience tonight to explain why he wants to privatize Social Security and Medicare," Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Speaking from a budget panel hearing room that will be ground zero in the

upcoming battle over cutting spending, Ryan echoed familiar GOP arguments.

"We need to reclaim our American system of limited government, low taxes, reasonable regulations and sound money, which has blessed us with unprecedented prosperity," Ryan said. "And it has done more to help the poor than any other economic system ever designed."

Ryan's sentiments were repeated by numerous Republicans across the Capitol, who said Obama's proposal for a five-year freeze on the operating budgets passed by Congress each year for domestic Cabinet agencies doesn't go far enough.

They are also deeply skeptical of his plan for investments in education, infrastructure, and research and development.



AP

President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gitmo detainee gets life sentence in embassy plot

NEW YORK (AP)—The first, and possibly the last, Guantanamo detainee to have a U.S. civilian trial was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday for his role in the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Africa, a case that nearly unraveled when the defendant was convicted on just one of more than 280 counts. Ahmed Ghailani, who served as Osama bin Laden's cook and bodyguard after the bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, sought leniency, claiming he was tortured at a secret CIA detention site after his arrest in Pakistan seven years ago. But U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan imposed the maximum sentence, saying that whatever Ghailani suffered "pales in comparison to the suffering and the horror" caused by the nearly simultaneous attacks, which killed 224 people and injured thousands more.

Illinois high court will hear Rahm Emanuel appeal

CHICAGO (AP)—Illinois' highest court agreed Tuesday to decide whether Rahm Emanuel can run for Chicago mayor, and justices ordered election officials not to print any ballots without his name until they rule on the case. The action bought valuable time for the

former White House chief of staff, who a day earlier was kicked off the ballot by an appeals court. The state Supreme Court said it would expedite the matter but gave no specific time frame. With less than a week to go before the first early ballots are cast, a number of potential scenarios loomed, including the possibility that Emanuel would have to resort to a write-in campaign or wage a desperate bid to take the matter to federal court.

Calif AG: Man with beard can't become prison guard

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California's attorney general says religious beliefs aren't enough to trump a corrections department ban on prison guards wearing beards—a stance that drew protests Tuesday from civil rights organizations. Attorney General Kamala Harris argued in a Sacramento County Superior Court filing Jan. 6 that Trilochan Oberoi can't be properly fitted for a gas mask if he keeps the facial hair required by his Sikh religion. No exceptions have been granted since the policy took effect in 2004, Harris said, citing the testimony of a corrections department official. She is asking that Oberoi's lawsuit be dismissed at an April 19 hearing.

chamber to prolonged applause, and to the unusual sight of Republicans and Democrats seated next to one another rather than on different sides of the center aisle. And he began with a political grace note, taking a moment to congratulate Boehner, the new Republican speaker of the House.

Calling for a new day of cooperation, Obama said: "What comes of this moment will be determined not by whether we can sit together tonight but whether we can work together tomorrow."

On a night typically known for its political theater, the lawmakers sometimes seemed subdued, as if still in the shadow of the Arizona shootings.

Many in both parties wore black-and-white lapel ribbons, signifying the deaths in Tucson and the hopes of the survivors. Giffords' husband was watching the speech from her bedside, as he held her hand. At times, Obama delivered lighter

comments, seeming to surprise his audience with the way he lampooned what he suggested was the government's illogical regulation of salmon.

Halfway through his term, Obama stepped into this moment on the upswing, with a series of recent legislative wins in his pocket and praise from all corners for the way he responded to the shooting rampage in Arizona. But he confronts the political reality is that he must lead a divided government for the first time, with more than half of all Americans disapproving of the way he is handling the economy.

Over his shoulder a reminder of the shift in power on Capitol Hill: Boehner, in the seat that had been held by Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Obama conceded that everything he asked for would prompt more partisan disputes. "It will take time," he said. "And it will be harder because we will argue about

everything. The cost. The details. The letter of every law."

Obama used the stories of some of the guests sitting with his wife, Michelle, to illustrate his points, including a small business owner who, in the tradition of American ingenuity, designed a drilling technology that helped rescue the Chilean miners.

Flanking Mrs. Obama in the gallery: Brianna Mast, the wife of a soldier seriously injured in Afghanistan, and Roxanna Green, mother of the nine-year girl killed in the Tucson shooting.

The president cast the challenges facing the United States as bigger than either party. He said the nation was facing a new "Sputnik" moment, and he urged efforts to create a wave of innovation to create jobs and a vibrant economic future, just as the nation vigorously responded to the Soviets beating the U.S. into space a half century ago.

Asia

PH steps up security after blast kills 5

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police stepped up security at bus terminals, ports and airports Wednesday as officials suspected Muslim militants could be behind a bus bombing that killed five people in the bloodiest attack in the capital in six years.

Metropolitan Manila police director Nicanor Bartolome said investigators had recovered parts of a remotely detonated improvised bomb that resembles similar devices used by militants in the volatile southern Philippines, where minority Muslims have been fighting for self-rule for decades.

President Benigno Aquino III tried to calm residents in a televised news conference shortly after Tuesday's blast along a major thoroughfare in the Makati financial district, promising his government will not allow fear to settle in.

He and other officials have not named any specific group, but suggested the possible involvement of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants. They were also blamed for a bus bombing in 2005 that killed four



Rescuers remove the victim from the wreckage of a passenger bus following an explosion Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011 along a EDSA Avenue at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines.

near the site of Tuesday's blast. A year earlier, the Abu Sayyaf was blamed for the country's worst terrorist bombing that killed 116 people in a burning ferry in Manila Bay.

Aquino said he directed his national security adviser to reassess threats that reportedly came from terrorist groups last year and that prompted several countries, including Australia, Britain and the U.S., to put in

place travel warnings. At the time, the government had not found the threats credible and the warnings infuriated Aquino.

Investigators were also looking into the background of the wounded and the dead, police Chief Superintendent Jose Arnel delos Santos said. His statement suggested that one of the passengers may have been carrying the explosive when it went off prematurely.

SKorea proposes preliminary meeting with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Wednesday proposed holding a preliminary meeting with North Korea in two weeks' time to lay the groundwork for high-level defense discussions, in what would be the rivals' first official contact since the North's deadly shelling of a South Korean island late last year.

The proposal came as a senior U.S. diplomat visited Seoul to talk about ways to deal with North Korea, which has made a recent push for talks to ease hostility on the peninsula after weeks of threatening war. The South, which responded to the North's Nov. 23 artillery attack with military drills and threats of its own, has agreed to talks but remains wary of North Korean intentions.

South Korea's defense minister sent a message to his North Korean counterpart proposing a Feb. 11 meeting at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the peninsula, the Defense Ministry said.

Also Wednesday, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg met with Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan.

In comments to reporters before a closed-door meeting with Kim, Steinberg praised U.S.-South Korean "shared determination to deal with the challenge of North Korea in a way that protects the interest of South Korea, the United States and all the countries of this region."

The North's artillery attack on South Korea's Yeonpyeong

Island near their disputed sea border killed two marines and two civilians and fueled animosity between the rivals that was already rising because of the March sinking of the South Korean naval ship Cheonan.

A South Korean-led international investigation blamed a North Korean torpedo for the sinking, which killed 46 sailors; Pyongyang denies involvement.

Next month's preliminary meeting is meant to prepare for high-level defense talks, Unification Ministry spokesman Chun Hae-sung said in a statement. Chun said the agenda for the high-level talks must include North Korean assurances that it will take "responsible measures" over the Cheonan and the artillery attack and not provoke further conflict.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's premier says public should criticize govt

BEIJING (AP)—China's premier has urged citizens to voice their criticisms of the government and speak out about injustice during an unprecedented visit to the country's top petition bureau, where people are allowed to file complaints against officials, state media reported. The official Xinhua News Agency said late Tuesday that it was the first time since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 that a premier has met with ordinary petitioners.

Bombers target Shiites in Pakistan, killing 12

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Suicide bombers attacked police protecting marches by minority Shiite Muslims in Pakistan's two largest cities Tuesday, killing 12 people and wounding dozens, officials said. The first and most deadly attack oc-

curred in the eastern city of Lahore, where the bomber detonated his explosives as police tried to search him, killing 10 people. About an hour later, a second bomber struck in the southern port city of Karachi, killing at least two people.

Malaysia releases lab mosquitoes to fight dengue

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia released about 6,000 genetically modified mosquitoes into a forest in the first experiment of its kind in Asia aimed at curbing dengue fever, officials said Wednesday. The field test is meant to pave the way for the official use of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* male mosquitoes to mate with females and produce offspring with shorter lives, thus curtailing the mosquito population. Only female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes spread dengue fever, which killed 134 people in Malaysia last year.

World

Putin vows revenge for Moscow bombing

MOSCOW (AP)—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin vowed revenge Tuesday for the suicide bombing that killed 35 people at a Moscow airport—a familiar tough-on-terrorism stance that has underpinned his power but also led to a rising number of deadly attacks in Russia.

Lax security also was blamed for Monday's explosion in the international arrivals area of Domodedovo Airport that also injured 180 people, with President Dmitry Medvedev criticizing police and managers at the airport, the largest of three that serve the capital.

NTV television showed a photograph of what it said was the detached head of the suspected bomber. Investigators have said that DNA testing will be necessary before the man, who appears to be in his 30s, can be identified.

A two-second video of the

Moscow airport bombing

An explosion at Domodedovo Airport in Moscow killed more than 30 people and injured more than 150.

Explosions at busy airport

- Explosion caused by suicide bomber
 - People who are not passengers have access to international arrivals
 - Russia's largest passenger traffic airport
- Attacks in Russia**
- Oct. 2010 Militants storm parliament in Chechnya, North Caucasus; 6 killed
 - March 2010 Suicide bombings at two Moscow metro stations; 40 killed
 - Nov. 2009 Bombings hit Moscow-St. Petersburg luxury express train; 26 killed
 - Sept. 2004 Chechen rebels seize school; 334 hostages killed
 - Aug. 2004 Suicide bomber at Moscow metro station; 10 killed
 - Aug. 2004 Two airliners departing from Domodedovo blown up by suicide bombers; 89 killed

Source: ESRI, BBC, AP



Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2011 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

Egyptians denounce Mubarak, clash with riot police

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian police fired tear gas and rubber bullets and beat protesters to clear thousands of people from a central Cairo square Wednesday after the biggest demonstrations in years against President Hosni Mubarak's authoritarian rule. Two protesters and a police officer were killed in the nationwide demonstrations inspired by Tunisia's uprising, which also demanded a solution to Egypt's grinding poverty and were likely to fuel growing dissent in a presidential election year. Mobilized largely on the Internet, the waves of protesters filled Cairo's central Tahrir—or Liberation—Square on Tuesday, some hurling rocks and climbing atop armored police trucks.

Mexican government: La Familia cartel in retreat

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government vowed Tuesday not to back down in its fight against La Familia drug cartel, despite

mysterious banners proclaiming that the brutal gang has dissolved itself. Lawmakers and drug war experts expressed skepticism about the banners, saying the message could be a ploy to divert the focus of federal security forces away from the cartel, known for beheadings and bold attacks on police and soldiers.

New Hezbollah-backed PM urges Lebanon unity

BEIRUT (AP)—The billionaire businessman chosen by Hezbollah and its allies as Lebanon's prime minister called for a unity government Tuesday, a sign that the Iranian-backed militant group does not want to push its growing power too far and risk isolation abroad and an escalation of sectarian tensions at home. In Washington, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned that formation of a government dominated by Hezbollah would mean changes in U.S. relations with Lebanon. The militant group and its allies ousted the government backed by Washington two weeks ago when they walked out of the Cabinet.

rebels would be hunted down and killed "in the outhouse." But despite a second devastating war that brought Chechnya back under Moscow's control and sanctioning the violent rule of his chosen Chechen leader, Putin has been unable to wipe out the Islamic insurgency that has spread across much of the Caucasus.

A brutal crackdown on the insurgency has produced a backlash that has led to almost daily attacks on police and security forces in the Caucasus and brought the terror to Moscow.

Muscovites have also seen a sharp rise in ethnic tensions between Slavic Russians and Muslims from the Caucasus, many of whom come to the capital in search of work.

In an effort to address the poverty and high unemployment that feed the insurgency, the government has made ambitious plans to promote economic development in the Caucasus, including the building of five ski resorts across the mountainous region.

Putin said last week the government would allocate 60 billion rubles (\$2 billion) this year toward the construction, but the bulk of the \$15 billion needed is to come from private investors.

Medvedev has been given the task of attracting badly needed foreign investment to Russia, a mission he will take Wednesday to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he is to be the main speaker at the opening session.

The airport bombing undermined his mission and delayed his departure for a day. Instead of schmoozing with CEOs of major global corporations, Medvedev on Tuesday gave a tough speech to officials at the Federal Security Service, the main KGB successor.

Focus

LOndon (AP)—Nearly two months after WikiLeaks outraged the U.S. government by launching the release of a massive compendium of diplomatic documents, the secret-spilling website has published 2,628 U.S. State Department cables—just over 1 percent of its trove of 251,287 documents.

Here's a look at what the consequences of the cables' release has been so far, and what the future could hold for WikiLeaks.

IT'S LIFTED THE VEIL ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WikiLeaks has given the world's public an unprecedented, behind-the-scenes look at U.S. diplomacy. Among the most eye-catching revelations were reports that Arab countries had lobbied for an attack on Iran, China had made plans for the collapse of its North Korean ally, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton had ordered U.S. diplomats to gather the computer passwords, fingerprints and even DNA of their foreign counterparts.

Some of the most controversial cables dealt with a directive to harvest biometric information on a range of officials. U.S. diplomats have been forced repeatedly to deny spying on their counterparts—although none have specifically addressed the instructions to gather personal details, sensitive computer data, and even genetic material or iris scans.

Anthony Cordesman, an analyst for the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, cautioned that some cables were less explosive when taken in the context they were written. He noted that Arab belligerence toward Tehran has festered for years—and suggested the rhetoric was being ratcheted up at a time of high tensions over Iran's nuclear program.

As for the cables on scooping up fingerprints, frequent flyer numbers, and other personal information, Cordesman said that "there isn't a diplomatic service in the world that doesn't serve its intelligence community."

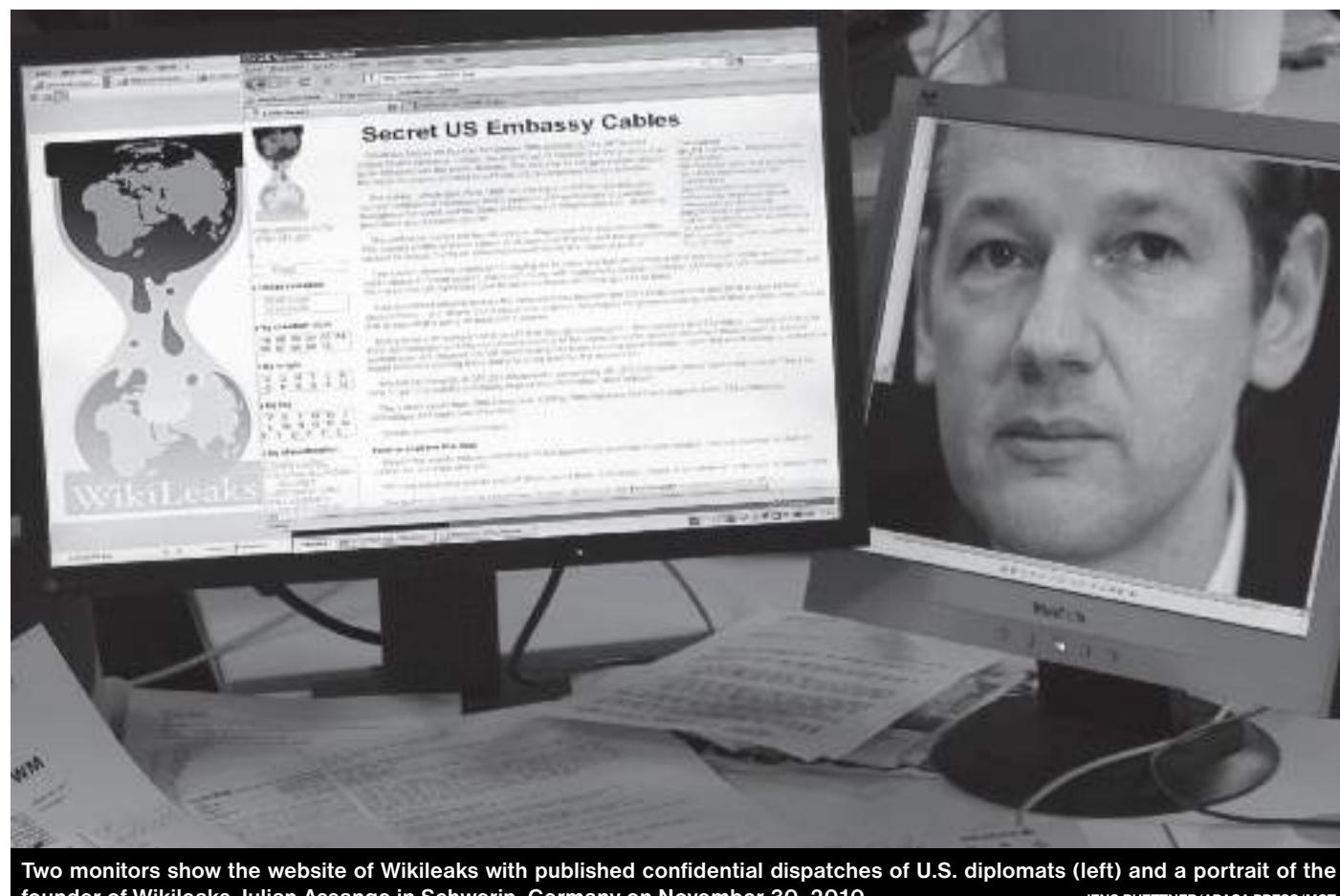
IT'S SHOWN HOW LEADERS LIE

Over and over again, the cables captured world leaders lying—to each other, to their allies, and to their own citizens.

Diplomacy "comes across as a scheming, duplicitous profession—which it kind of is," said Carne Ross, a former British diplomat who resigned over the Iraq war.

WikiLeaks: Just 1 pct. of diplomatic docs published

By RAPHAEL G. SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Two monitors show the website of WikiLeaks with published confidential dispatches of U.S. diplomats (left) and a portrait of the founder of WikiLeaks Julian Assange in Schwerin, Germany on November 30, 2010.

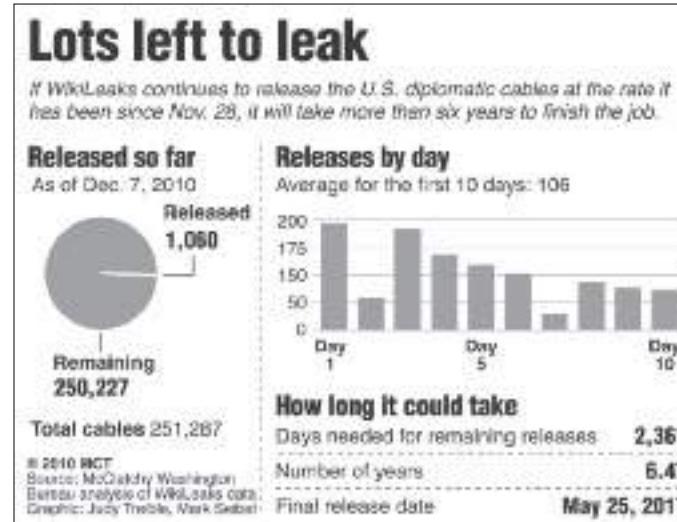
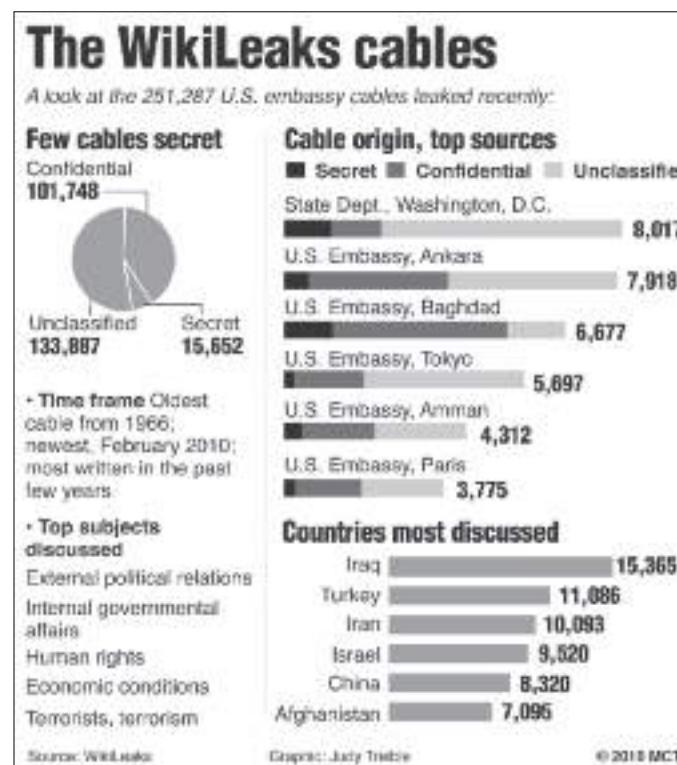
JENS BUETTNER/ABACA PRESS/MCT

Ross said the most outrageous example of double-dealing he had seen so far was the 2009 cable that caught Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh sharing a joke about how another senior official had covered up a series of U.S. attacks by lying to parliament.

But there are other examples. One of the cables has Morgan Tsvangirai, Zimbabwe's longtime opposition leader-turned-prime minister, telling Western diplomats that his calls for easing sanctions against Zimbabwe are for public consumption only. Another cable cites Israeli officials, who have often insisted their controversial blockade of the Gaza Strip is targeted only at their arch-foe Hamas, as freely acknowledging that the restrictions were in fact an effort to keep the Gazan economy teetering on the brink of collapse.

The cables are laced with cynicism. One quotes a former French prime minister as dismissing a fellow socialist politician as too honest for his own good. Meanwhile Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, describes his country's apparently cordial relationship with neighboring Iran as one big charade.

"They lie to us, and we lie to them," Al-Thani is quoted



face serious damage to their careers. Officials have told The Associated Press that Ambassador Gene Cretz may lose his job as envoy to Tripoli over his descriptions of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's eccentricities.

Allied officials have been rattled by the releases as well: The German foreign minister's chief of staff took a leave of absence following the revelation that he was feeding information to Washington; Afghanistan's finance minister offered to resign after he was quoted as describing President Hamid Karzai as weak and paranoid; Britain's central banker also faced criticism after a cable caught him sharing his doubts about Prime Minister David Cameron's economic competency with the U.S. ambassador to London.

Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo may have been speaking for many across the world last month when he instructed officials to be less open when speaking with their American counterparts.

"The WikiLeaks disclosures have been disastrous for U.S. diplomacy," Yeo said.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Although only a small sliver of the entire trove of State Department documents has made it online, the secret memos have been held by *The New York Times*, Britain's *The Guardian*, Germany's *Der Spiegel*, and Spain's *El País* for weeks, if not months. Recent cables have made news, but lately they haven't carried the same punch as earlier releases.

as saying.

IT'S SHAKEN U.S. DIPLOMACY

Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini drew considerable attention when he described the WikiLeaks release as the "September 11 of world diplomacy."

At the very least, the cables have angered some major world figures. Turkey's prime minister demanded that U.S. diplomats be punished for claiming that he had money stashed away in a collection of Swiss bank accounts; cables covering attempts to secure nuclear material in Pakistan drew outrage in a country where public hostility to the United States is already high; rivals such as Russia jumped on the cables to accuse the U.S. of arrogance and dishonesty.

Richard Dalton, the former British ambassador to Libya and now a fellow at London's Chatham House think tank, dismissed Frattini's prediction of a worldwide diplomatic meltdown, suggesting that things would eventually return to business as usual.

"It is—so far—a bump in the road," he said, although he noted longterm damage to U.S. diplomacy was still hard to gauge.

Even if the U.S. State Department rapidly recovers, individual officials still

and even though his website is no longer accepting submissions, Assange said secrets were still making their way to him all the time. On Monday, a Swiss ex-banker—now under arrest for his interactions with WikiLeaks—handed Assange his latest set of secrets, data that he claimed carried details of tax evasion by some 2,000 prominent people.

Assange said the material could be online within weeks.

Environment

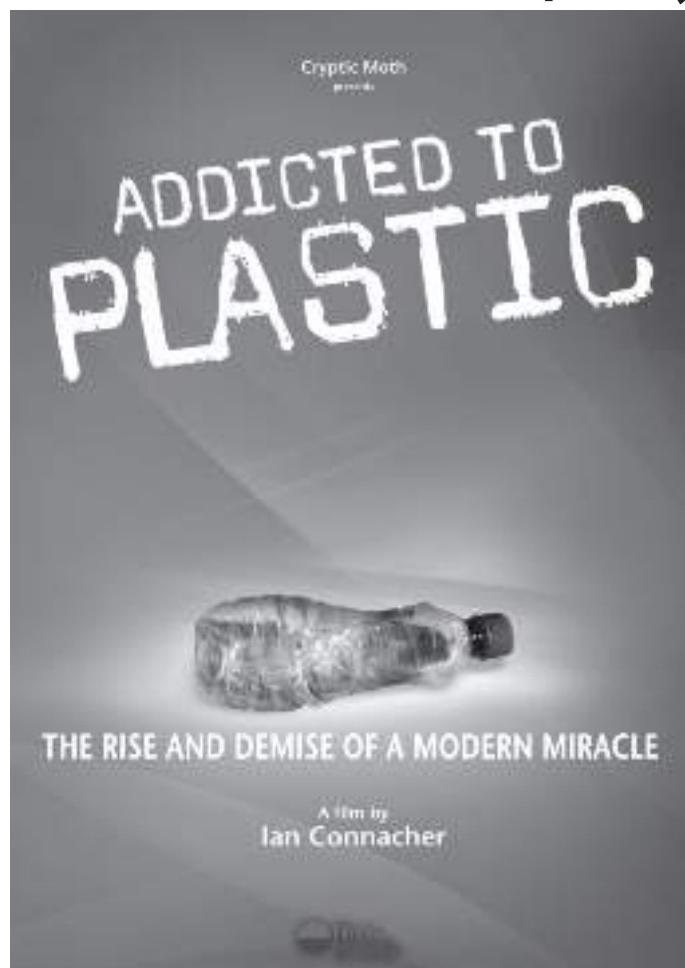
'Addicted to Plastic' plays Feb. 4 at AMP theater

February's First Friday Films brings an exciting new movie, *Addicted to Plastic*. The film shows the shocking truth about the plague of plastic pollution worldwide. The show is at American Memorial Park and starts at 6:30pm. Come early to enjoy the creative displays that will be out in the visitors center lobby.

Addicted to Plastic shows the cycle of many different types of plastics we use everyday, the many threats they pose to our oceans and health, and the challenges with recycling plastic.

It is "a wake up-call...a sort of eco-horror movie!" said Dr. M. Cervino of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. It also presents unique and bizarre solutions to reducing, reusing, and recycling this useful yet toxic material.

The movie reveals the disgusting truth about the widespread disaster of plastic pollution on land and especially in our oceans. From the first day plastic was invented until now,



every piece of plastic made is still around today—except for some that has been incinerated. Plastic floating around in the oceans can be mistaken for food by marine organisms, and because it has a tendency to attract other oily pollutants, these plastic bits become coated with toxins and eaten by birds and fish, which end up on our plates.

Although scientists agree that plastic has become an environmental catastrophe, there are only a few who have joined the fight to get rid of it. Because it can be built, shaped, and used in almost any way, people have become more dependent on it than ever and therefore will only increase the hunger for more plastic.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service, Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

The Pacific Historic Parks

(formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 85 minutes long. As always, First Friday

Films is free and open to the public. Limited seating is available; please arrive early to ensure entry. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

DO YOUR PART

Host a green Super Bowl party in 2011



TERRI BENNETT ENTERPRISES/MCT

"Do Your Part," and host a green Super Bowl party.

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

If you have plans to host a Super Bowl party you may have to deal with trash talking between guests, but you don't have to deal with bags of trash from the party. Do Your Part by hosting a greener party, no matter what colors your team sports.

You'll probably be stocking up on most of your party supplies at the grocery store. If beer is on your list, consider trying a few varieties of organic or locally brewed beers. If you're having a large crowd, renting a keg is both more economical and less wasteful. A full size keg holds the equivalent of 165 12-ounce containers of beer and can be refilled and used over and over again.

For individually packaged beverages of all kinds, the greener choices are ones packaged in aluminum cans. Aluminum is the most valuable and cost effective material that we recycle. Plus aluminum can be recycled and back on the store shelves as new product in a matter of weeks. When serving water, the best choice is to provide a pitcher of ice water and reusable glasses for your guests. If bottled water is a must, buy bottles made with less plastic and make sure they get recycled.

Reusable dinnerware and utensils are the least wasteful means of throwing a party but it's not always practical. When shopping for the disposable products like napkins and paper towels, look for ones made from recycled paper. Paper plates are a bit trickier but non-coated ones are your best bet because they break down in the landfill more quickly. There are also fun and eco-friendly plates, bowls, and utensils made from bamboo or other sustainable materials. However, these are easier to find online, so plan ahead.

And of course, there are all the things you'll be putting on those plates. From carrots and celery sticks to wings and chips, buying in bulk creates less packaging waste and you'll save money too. Keep a few reusable containers on hand to send extra leftovers home with your guests.

Don't forget to make it easy for your guests to recycle. If you have designated recycling bins for things like cans and bottles, they'll be a lot less likely to end up in the trash.

Go ahead and cheer on your favorite football team without creating a lot of waste. It's another way to Do Your Part while still enjoying the biggest, and hopefully the best game of the year. Not to mention some pretty entertaining commercials.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Fool's gold catches eye of solar energy researchers

By TIFFANY HSU
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Iron pyrite—also known as fool's gold—may be worthless to treasure hunters, but it could become a bonanza to the solar industry.

The mineral, among the most abundant in the earth's crust, is usually discarded by coal miners or sold as nuggets in novelty stores.

But researchers at the University of California-Irvine said they could soon turn fool's gold into a cheaper alternative to the rare and expensive materials now used in making solar panels.

"With alternative energy and climate-change issues, we're always in a race against time," said lead researcher Matt Law. "With some insight and a little bit of luck, we could find a good solution with something

that's now disposed of as useless garbage."

The UC-Irvine team believes the mineral can be processed into a thin film for use in photovoltaic cells, and could eventually convert sunlight into electricity at roughly the same rate as existing technology.

Though it's too early to estimate the cost of cells made with pyrite, Law said they're likely to be cheaper because fool's gold is so readily available. A prototype could be ready within the year, but it could be at least three years before the cells are commercially available.

Some industry analysts, however, are skeptical that the team—which includes a chemist, a mathematician and a physicist—can hit pay dirt. "I don't want to pour cold water on what they're doing, but every day somebody comes up with a new idea for

a solar cell technology," said Shyam Mehta, a solar industry analyst with GTM Research. "Commercializing it is a lot more difficult than people seem to think, and it's full of failed attempts."

To be successful in the market, he said, scientists have to replicate the carefully controlled conditions of a laboratory in a factory capable of producing hundreds of thousands of panels a year, at a cost that can compete with Chinese prices.

The U.S. solar photovoltaics industry is worth at least \$2 billion and growing, but not much of the cell-making process occurs domestically. Existing types of cells, such as cadmium telluride and amorphous silicon, use materials that are either very scarce, potentially toxic or not especially efficient.

And other materials such as indium—about \$300 a pound—

are in high demand for use in touch screens and other tech gadgets. These so-called rare earth elements are available only from a single U.S. mine in California or from China, which is clamping down on exports of the material.

Law and his colleagues believe fool's gold, which is composed of iron and sulfur, could be used to make solar cells in a major production process.

Iron pyrite has been eyed as a candidate for solar panels in scattered studies in the 1980s and '90s, along with other cheaper, abundant materials such as copper oxide, copper sulfide and zinc phosphide, Law said. But a lack of clean-tech financing, unsophisticated processing equipment and lack of interest caused the research efforts to fizzle.

"Now, with better tools and funding and a sense of urgency, more people are looking again at very promising materials that might have had one stumbling block or two earlier that had tripped them up," Law said.

One of the challenges in developing solar cells from fool's gold is that the material has poor voltage. That is, the mineral is full of microscopic pockets that suck in electrons, limiting conductivity and the ability to convert solar energy into electricity. Law's team is working on ways to plug the holes.

The work is being funded in part by a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation's solar panels.



TAN HOLDINGS DONATION

Tan Holdings donates \$269.43 to the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance to purchase the licensing rights of documentary films that will be shown in DEQ's First Fridays Films. Shown in photo is Ed Arriola of Tan Holdings turning over the check to MINA executive director Sam Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

'The King's Speech' usurps throne as Oscar leader

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II's dad, Albert—the gentle, stammering Duke of York—never was meant to be king. And from Hollywood's early honors this season, a drama based on his life never seemed destined as heir-apparent at the Academy Awards.

Yet "The King's Speech" took a step closer to the best-picture crown Tuesday, leading the Oscars with 12 nominations and gaining momentum against the online chronicle "The Social Network," which had previously ruled the awards season.

Hollywood's top prize on Feb. 27 now seems like a two-picture duel between stories about a monarch who lives in terror of a 1930s tool of mass communication—the radio microphone—and a college kid who helped define the Internet era by inventing Facebook.

Also nominated for best picture are the Western "True Grit," second with 10 total nominations; the psychosexual thriller "Black Swan"; the boxing drama "The Fighter"; the science-fiction blockbuster "Inception"; the lesbian-family tale "The Kids Are All Right"; the survival story "127 Hours"; the animated smash "Toy Story 3"; and the Ozarks crime thriller "Winter's Bone."

"The King's Speech" is a pageant in the truest Oscar sense, with pomp, ceremony and history like past best-picture winners "The Last Emperor," "Lawrence of Arabia," "A Man for All Seasons" and "Shakespeare in Love."

It's also an intimate, personal tale of love and kinship as royal Albert (best-actor front-runner Colin Firth) is buoyed by the devotion of his wife (supporting-actress nominee Helena Bonham Carter) and makes an unlikely friend out of a commoner, his wily speech therapist (supporting-actor contender Geoffrey Rush).

"It's a very, very human story. After all, how many of us are so blessed that we go through life without having to overcome some kind of personal obstacle?" said "The King's Speech" writer David Seidler, who grew up with a stammer himself and earned a nomination for original

national screenplay.

Seidler said young people who were reluctant to see a historical film "end up absolutely loving it and wanting to see it again, because they understand the emotions of being teased, being bullied, being marginalized, and they really understand the power of a supportive friendship."

Meantime, "The Social Network" seems like a film completely in the here and now as Harvard computer genius Mark Zuckerberg (best-actor nominee Jesse Eisenberg) reinvents the art of keeping in touch with the viral growth of Facebook, whose half a billion users stay connected with friends online.

But the motivations at the core of the film are ancient as Zuckerberg battles old friends and associates over the Web site's riches.

"It is a timeless story, one with themes as old as storytelling itself: of friendship and loyalty, of betrayal, power, class, jealousy," said Aaron Sorkin, a nominee for adapted screenplay for "The Social Network." "These are things that Aeschylus would have written about or Shakespeare would have written about. And it's just lucky for me that neither of those guys were available, so I got to write about it."

Along with Firth, other acting favorites claimed Oscar slots, including supporting actor nominee Christian Bale as a former boxer whose career unravels amid drugs and crime in "The Fighter."

The best-actress field shapes up as a two-woman race between Natalie Portman as a ballerina losing her grip on reality in "Black Swan" and Annette Bening as a lesbian mom in "The Kids Are All Right."

Firth, Bale, Portman and Bening all won Golden Globes for their performances.

The supporting-actress Oscar could prove the most competitive among acting prizes. Melissa Leo won the Globe for "The Fighter" as the domineering matriarch of a boxing family. But she faces strong challenges from that film's costar Amy Adams as a boxer's tough girlfriend and 14-year-old newcomer Hailee Steinfeld as a girl who rides along with a U.S. marshal to track her father's killer in "True Grit."

"The Social Network" won best drama at the Globes and was named best film by key critics groups, positioning it as the early Oscar favorite. "The King's Speech" pulled an upset last weekend by beating "The Social Network" for top honors at the Producers Guild of America Awards, whose winner often goes on to claim the

best-picture Oscar.

Firth's Albert, known as Bertie to his family, inherited the British throne in 1936 after his older brother abdicated. The reluctant new monarch took the name of his father and reigned as King George VI, continuing his struggle to overcome his speech impediment at a crucial time, as his subjects looked to their ruler for inspiration amid the stirrings of World War II.

The film offers up history as rip-roaring entertainment, with surprising laughs and an uplifting message.

"It's incredibly positive, and I think that is why people are responding," said Bonham Carter. "It's also just helpful to see how somebody can be fundamentally helped by another human being. He's pulled out of this deep, dark hole, and how we can all, if we surrender ourselves, can be helped by somebody else."

The best-picture field is a mix of solid commercial successes such as "The King's Speech," "The Social Network" and "Black Swan," huge blockbusters such as "Toy Story 3" and "Inception," and modest earners such as "127 Hours" and "Winter's Bone."



2011 nominations

The 83rd annual Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 27. Nominees in major categories:

Best actor	Best actress	Best director
Javier Bardem "Bluett"	Annette Bening "... Kids Are All Right"	Darren Aronofsky "Black Swan"
Jeff Bridges "True Grit"	Nicole Kidman "Rabbit Hole"	Joel and Ethan Coen "True Grit"
Jesse Eisenberg "The Social Network"	Jennifer Lawrence "Winter's Bone"	David Fincher "The Social Network"
Colin Firth "The King's Speech"	Natalie Portman "Black Swan"	Tom Hooper "The King's Speech"
James Franco "127 Hours"	Michelle Williams "Blue Valentine"	David O. Russell "The Fighter"
Best supporting actor	Best supporting actress	Best picture
Christian Bale "The Fighter"	Amy Adams "The Fighter"	"Black Swan"
John Hawkes "Winter's Bone"	Helena B. Carter "The King's	"The Fighter"
Jeremy Renner "The Town"	Melissa Leo "The Fighter"	"Inception"
Mark Ruffalo "The Kids Are All Right"	Hailee Steinfeld "True Grit"	"... Kids Are All Right"
Geoffrey Rush "The King's Speech"	Jacki Weaver "Animal Kingdom"	"The King's Speech"
Best foreign language film	Best documentary	"127 Hours"
"Bluett" Mexico	"Exit Through the Gift Shop"	"The Social Network"
"Dogtooth" Greece	"Gasland"	"Toy Story 3"
"In a Better World" Denmark	"Inside Job"	"Inception"
"Incendies" Canada	"Restrepo"	"Winter's Bone"
"Outside the Law" Algeria	"Wasteland"	"The Fighter"
Best animated film		
"How to Train Your Dragon"		
"The Illusionist"		
"Toy Story 3"		

© 2011 MCT
Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
Graphics: Pat Carr

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved

Capt. Jerry S. Koshiro

We the family, of the late Capt. Jerry S. Koshiro would like to invite all our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

The following Mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am everyday from January 21, 2011, Friday to January 29, 2011, Saturday.

On the last day Saturday, January 29, 2011, breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your Prayers and Presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase' and Mesulang!

The Family



Oscar's snubs and surprises: Nolan left out again

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In handing out 120 nominations, the Oscars inevitably spurn others. "Snub" is the word of choice for these oversights, and Christopher Nolan is well acquainted with its meaning.

Two years after seeing his "The Dark Knight" earn neither a best picture nomination nor a directing nod, Nolan was passed over for directing "Inception," another film both acclaimed and popular at the box office.

This time, at least, "Inception" was included among the best picture nominees, which now number 10, a change made last year partly because of the outcry over the rebuff of "The Dark Knight."

"Inception" still counted six nominations, including a best original screenplay mention



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Leonardo DiCaprio is shown in a scene from "Inception." The film was nominated for an Academy Award for best film, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011. The Oscars will be presented Feb. 27 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

for Nolan, yet nothing for Lee Smith's bravo editing.

Though many of the nominations announced Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Pictures were as expected, the most glaring omission was that of "Waiting for 'Superman'" in the best

documentary category. One of the most talked about documentaries of the year and a widely expected Oscar favorite, the education system examination was left out, perhaps because some experts deemed it an inaccurate exaggeration of

charter schools.

Other surprises from this year's batch of Oscar nominees:

■ BARDEM DISPLACES

DUVALL: Earning an acting nomination for a performance in another language is never easy, but Javier Bardem has now done it twice. Before winning in 2008 for "No Country for Old Men," he was nominated in 2001 for "Before Night Falls." His nomination for the Spanish-language "Biutiful" likely took the spot some pegged for Robert Duvall's bearded hermit in "Get Low."

■ A KING'S DOZEN:

"The King's Speech" was a heavy favorite going into Tuesday's announcement, but its leading 12 nominations is still a surprisingly high total. Though a performance-based film, it still earned nods for cinematography and sound editing. (With 10 nominations, "True Grit"

also proved especially strong, further highlighting the Golden Globes' questionable judgment in snubbing it altogether.)

■ THIS YEAR'S INDIE

DARLING: The Ozark Mountains drama "Winter's Bone" had long been a cause célèbre for those who root for the smaller movies. Rather than sneak into the awards, it garnered a commanding four nominations, including best picture and best supporting actor for John Hawkes. Its star, the 20-year-old Jennifer Lawrence, is the fifth youngest best actress nominee.

■ GOSLING, MANVILLE

MISSING: Many would say the two best performances of 2010 were Ryan Gosling in "Blue Valentine" and Lesley Manville in "Another Year." Both were left out, though Gosling's co-star, Michelle Williams, was nominated for best actress. Some questioned why Manville wasn't pushed in

the perhaps more fitting supporting actress category.

■ **OTHER SNUBS:** Expected by some prognosticators to be nominated were Andrew Garfield in "The Social Network," Julianne Moore in "The Kids Are All Right" and Mila Kunis in "Black Swan." Ben Affleck's "The Town" didn't squeak into the best picture category, and Disney's "Tangled" was booted from the best animated film category by "The Illusionist."

■ NEVER IN THE CONVERSATION:

The Oscar race often arrives at favorites in a curious, buzz-reliant way. There were many who never caught on with the Academy, but nevertheless are among the snubbed: Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island," Tilda Swinton in "I Am Love," Pierce Brosnan in "The Ghost Writer," Greta Gerwig in "Greenberg," Rebecca Hall in "Please Give" and surely many others.

Reactions to Academy Awards nominations

for best original screenplay for "The Kids Are All Right."

■ ■ ■

"I kept having strange dreams that I was back in like the turn of the century, wearing top hats and things like that, and they were announcing the nominees and they were like, 'No, you weren't nominated,' and I was like, 'Ahhh,' and I was so disappointed, and yet I had to go out and solve a mystery afterwards. It was very strange."—Geoffrey Rush, best supporting actor nominee for "The King's Speech."

■ ■ ■

"I think that what resonated is that it's not a timely story, I think what resonated is that it is a timeless story, one with themes as old as storytelling itself: of friendship and loyalty, of betrayal, power, class, jealousy. These are things that Aeschylus would have written about or Shakespeare would have written about. And it's just lucky for me that neither of those guys were available so I got to write about it."—Aaron Sorkin, nominated for best adapted screenplay for "The Social Network."

■ ■ ■

"It's always very nice, a nice thing. It always does make me feel better but only for a few hours."—Randy Newman, who has been nominated for more than a dozen Oscars, this year for the song "We Belong Together" from "Toy Story 3."

■ ■ ■

"I'm just hoping that maybe I can get into a party now. I doubt I will be able to though. Us producers, no one recognizes us."—Dana Brunetti, one of the producers of "The Social Network."

■ ■ ■

"Ten seems like an awful lot. We don't want to take anyone else's."—Joel and Ethan Coen, reacting to the 10 Oscar nominations for their film, "True Grit."

■ ■ ■

"If you get six nominations, including best picture and best actor—I'd go see that movie. So I think it's enormously important for the film."—Christian Colson, one of the producers of "127 Hours" on its six nominations.

■ ■ ■

"Well, you just sort of sit there a little stunned at first, and slowly the realization creeps over you and it's, 'Oh my goodness gracious!' This is something I hardly dared dream about over the years and yet it seems to be coming true. I hope the alarm clock doesn't ring and wake me up."—David Seidler, nominated for best original screenplay for "The King's Speech."

■ ■ ■

"I tried to act all cool and sleep through it and my dreams woke me up four times, and finally I just accepted the fact that I really cared and I got up and I watched it online."—Stuart Blumberg, nominated

"I'm celebrating with the people who helped get me there—you and your colleagues in the various forms of press and media that have long witnessed my work and long written and spoken beautiful things about it and really, truly helped me get to this day. Everyone asks about celebrations and glasses of champagne. That I get the opportunity to talk to all of you and say: 'We did it! This is awesome! Look at us now!'"—Melissa Leo, nominated for best supporting actress for "The Fighter."

■ ■ ■

"Really, for me, the trick is very much to get out of my own way. Just let the characters sing what needs to be sung and let the score inform the story. I think people appreciate that."—Composer Alan Menken, winner of eight Academy Awards for best song or score, earned his 19th nomination for writing the music for the song "I See the Light" from the animated film "Tangled."

■ ■ ■

"There is a very deep emotion in this film—that's why it's so successful all over the world. ... The audience is moved and thrilled by this so human story. There's not many movies that can do that."—Composer Alexandre Desplat, nominated for best original score for "The King's Speech."

■ ■ ■

"For 'Tangled,' it's one of those moments where music and visual and story and character all come together at this one moment. It's a pretty compelling case for why songs make films better."—Lyricist Glenn Slater, nominated with Alan Menken for the song "I See the Light" from the animated film "Tangled."

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Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Natalie Portman plays Emma Franklin, a doctor who's not really looking for love and is not ready for a relationship because of time issues and just wants to have someone to have sex with. She decided to have sex with her friend, Adam Kurtzman played by Ashton Kutcher. Things get complicated when a plain sexual relationship is mixed up with emotions. Adam falls for Emma and the problem arises when the feeling is not mutual.



The Green Hornet

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

By day, Britt Reid (Seth Rogen) is a millionaire publisher and popular media figure, but by night, Reid assumes the identity of fearless crime fighter The Green Hornet and teams with his trusted sidekick, Kato (Stephen Chow), to keep the streets safe for average citizens. Producer Neal H. Moritz spearheads this big-screen adaptation of the popular radio serial, comic book, film, and television series originated by Lone Ranger creators Fran Striker and George W. Trendle.



Gulliver's Travels

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Jack Black, Emily Blunt
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Jack Black stars in the 20th Century Fox adaptation of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels with this fantasy-filled comedic production. This tale on the timeless tale revolves around a shipwrecked journalist (Black) who discovers an island in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle where he is the biggest occupant in comparison to its tiny inhabitants. Shark Tale's Rob Letterman directs from a script by Forgetting Sarah Marshall's Nick Stoller and Joe Stillman (Shrek).



Season Of The Witch

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Little Fockers

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
Comedy • Rated PG 13



True Grit

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Western • Rated PG 13

The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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'Skins' viewership plunges for its 2nd airing

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The audience for MTV's racy teen drama "Skins" plunged to 1.6 million Monday night, a drop-off of more than half from its premiere a week earlier, according to Nielsen Co. ratings.

The viewer slump may signal a triumph for the Parents Television Council, a watchdog group that had blasted the series' content and accused MTV of aiming the show at underage viewers.

Based on an acclaimed British series of the same name, MTV's Americanized "Skins" depicts teens engaging in sexual activity as well as drug and alcohol abuse.

The premiere was seen by 3.3 million viewers, 1.2 million of them under 18. Since then, a



In this publicity image released by MTV, Rachel Thevenard portrays Michelle, left, and Camille Cresencia-Mills portrays Daisy in a scene from the adolescent drama "Skins" on MTV.

number of advertisers—including Schick, Taco Bell, L'Oréal and the Subway sandwich chain—have pulled their com-

mercials from the program.

The furor was further inflamed by a newspaper story suggesting that scenes with the series'

Fox's Bill O'Reilly marks no-name's exit

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill O'Reilly marked the departure of rival Keith Olbermann from MSNBC, but wouldn't say his name.

The host of "The O'Reilly Factor" on Fox News Channel, a frequent target of Olbermann's barbs, noted on Monday's broadcast that a "hateful commentator" has been replaced by MSNBC.

Olbermann and MSNBC abruptly announced on Friday that he would be leaving "Countdown," the network's most-watched show and the template for which MSNBC remade itself as a network with liberal hosts in prime time. No

'Gladiators' cop denies anger while making arrest

DENVER (AP)—Police Officer Vicki Ferrari appeared as a contestant on "American Gladiators" to battle bodybuilders through obstacle courses in tests of strength, agility and cunning.

Now, Ferrari faces allegations of roughing up a shop manager during tense moments spent providing backup for other officers. Her appearance on the reality show is coming back to haunt her at a civil trial claiming excessive force and illegal arrest.

Lawyer David Lane, who represents the shop manager, showed jurors a website Tuesday promot-

ing Ferrari's appearance on the TV show in 2008. It revealed her nickname as "pitbull" and said she was "charming and easy going with a lightning-quick temper."

Lane told jurors the site suggests she arrested shopkeeper David Kraus in anger and tightened his handcuffs so tightly that it caused pain.

Ferrari disputed the accusation during her testimony.

"I got the nickname because I'm so small," the 5-foot-3, 124-pound Ferrari testified about being called a pitbull. As for having a quick temper: "I've never heard

that described like that to me."

Ferrari is one of two female Denver police officers who appeared as contestants on "American Gladiators" in 2008, when NBC revived the late 1980s hit.

The other contestant, Officer Abbegayle "Abbe" Dorn also is named in a lawsuit alleging excessive force. Both lawsuits were filed after the female officers appeared on the show in May 2008.

Denver police Lt. Matthew Murray said there has been no discussion about whether appearing on reality shows makes officers targets for lawsuits.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Body of Italian TV celebrity stolen from his tomb

ROME (AP) — Police are looking for the body of a late beloved Italian TV host after visitors at the cemetery found his tomb broken into and his coffin missing. Generations of Italians grew up watching Mike Bongiorno as he hosted quiz shows and other entertainment programs during the fledgling days of television in Italy. Bongiorno died in 2009 at the age of 85. Police in Arona, a town in northern Italy, said officers are still investigating at the Dagnante cemetery and would not comment. Italian news reports said a local man who came to the cemetery to visit a family grave noticed Bongiorno's tomb was open Tuesday morning and the coffin gone.

Priest known as 'Father Oprah' to get Fox show

MIAMI (AP) — A former Roman Catholic priest who left the church to marry his girlfriend after the two were photographed embracing on a South Florida beach is getting a new TV show. Alberto Cutie announced Tuesday he will host the daily talk show "Father Albert" on Fox stations. A Fox spokeswoman says the show will be aired later this year in cities including New York and Los Angeles. It will be picked up nationwide if it does well. Cutie, nicknamed "Father Oprah," changed his affiliation last year to the Episcopal Church. He and his wife welcomed their first child in December. Fox Television Stations and Debmar-Mercury are co-producing the show. Cutie got his nickname because of an earlier show he hosted on the Spanish-language Telemundo Network.

Sorkin says he's working on cable news TV pilot

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Writer Aaron Sorkin says he's going to give the world of cable TV news the "West Wing" treatment. In a BBC interview, Sorkin says he's written a pilot episode for HBO that takes place behind the scenes at a nightly cable news show. The series is being cast. After spending time observing at CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC, Sorkin hopes to give viewers an appreciation of the fascinating work being done. He says he wants to bring to cable news the same sense of idealism that made government appealing on "The West Wing." HBO declined comment on the project. Sorkin received an Oscar nomination Tuesday for his screenplay for "The Social Network."

Giving alcohol as a gift can have disastrous consequences

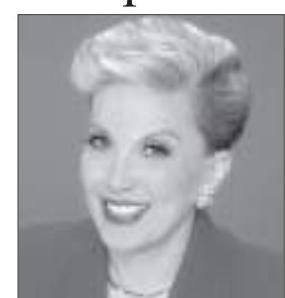
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: You advised "Susan in Southern Oregon" (Dec. 1), who asked about the appropriateness of giving alcohol as a gift at an office party, that "the only time that alcohol would be an inappropriate gift is when the giver knows the recipient doesn't use it." As a former psychiatric social worker, I would say that the only time alcohol would be an APPROPRIATE gift is when the giver knows the recipient would use it, and do so responsibly.

People aren't always forthcoming about their views and experiences regarding alcohol, so it's best to play it safe. Many people abstain from alcohol because they are recovering alcoholics or have seen the devastating results that alcoholism has had on a loved one's life. Others have religious reasons for not imbibing.

Giving alcohol as a gift may not only dismay the recipient, it could also lead to worse results if the giftee is someone who is struggling to stay sober.

AMY IN DOVER, DEL.



Dear Abby

DEAR AMY: You have raised many valid points. Most of my readers disagreed with my answer, and their reasons have made me reconsider my advice to Susan. I was wrong. (Mea culpa.) Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Imagine receiving a bottle of alcohol after growing up in a home with an abusive father who drank. Not only would you not want it, you wouldn't want to give it to anyone else. Imagine receiving a bottle of alcohol after having lost a child in an automobile accident caused by a drunk driver. Would you want that reminder, or would you want to regift it to someone who might get drunk with that bottle and cause someone else's death?

JOE IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

DEAR ABBY: Many alcoholics choose not to reveal their disease. It is called Alcoholics ANONYMOUS for a reason. A person may have been in recovery for many years and may not wish to tell anyone except close family and longtime friends.

A gift of alcohol would be a temptation to any recovering alcoholic, one that is hard to resist. The mind can easily rationalize: "It was a gift. I might as well get rid of it. I can share it with others, so it's not so bad." The slope grows steeper from there.

ANONYMOUS IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR ABBY: Have you any idea what it is like to get knocked across a room because you asked your daddy to play with you? Have you seen your Christmas tree knocked over because your mother and father were having a fistfight?

My father owned one of the largest businesses in our town. We belonged to the country club. Yet my parents died in poverty because of alcohol. Of the four siblings, I am the only one who doesn't have an alcohol abuse problem.

I am frequently asked to attend functions so I can be the designated driver. I think the slogan "Friends don't let friends drink and drive" should be changed to "Real friends don't try to shift their responsibility."

A SURVIVOR IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, I would have agreed with your answer. I am the president of a construction company, and it was standard practice for us to give alcohol at Christmas to a number of our customers.

Then one day, I received a call from a tearful woman who asked if we had given alcohol to her husband. When I answered yes, she said that in the future, she would appreciate it if we wouldn't do that anymore. Her husband, an alcoholic, had consumed the entire bottle, gone home and beaten her up. We discontinued the practice immediately.

I would not advise people to gift alcohol unless they know the recipient very well and know it will not cause harm to him or her, or those around them.

SAFER IN TENNESSEE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby*—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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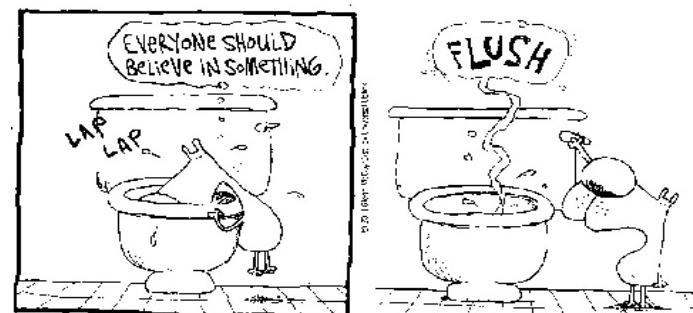
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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

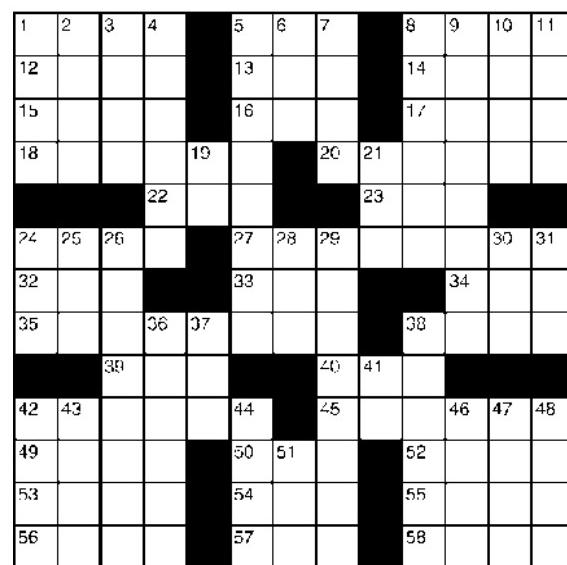


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34	Regret	DOWN	11	Departed
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Blynken's	cousin	39 Ostrich's	seam-	of	of
pal	40 iPad	stress	stress	wisdom	wisdom
8	Talon	42 Missing	4 Solve	25 Stickum	26 Chair for
12	Lotion	45 Lass	a crypt-	Stickum	a pair
additive	46	49 Lecher's	ogram	28 Switch	29 Niacin or
13	Rush	49 Lecher's	5 Almost	positions	riboflavin
more	face	look	black	30 Poolroom	prop
14	face	50 Blackbird	6 Sapporo	31 "Jeopar-	32 Niacin or
15	more	52 Continen-	sash	dy!" jug-	riboflavin
Catchall	face	tal	7 Ante-	gernaut	prop
abbr.	16	coin	lope's	Jennings	33 Come out
Compete	53 Boast	8 Emotion-	playmate	36 Sister	37 Sister
17	Terrible	54 Family	al	38 Each	38 Each
guy?	guy?	55 Family	period	41 19-	41 19-
18	Zaftig,	56 Initial	9 Variety	Down's	Down's
perhaps	perhaps	stake	of small	partner	partner
20	Take	57 Recede	parrot	42 Actress	43 Swiss
Umbrage	at	58 Other-	10 Chester	Jessica	city
22	Slight	wise	— Arthur	44 Snatch	44 Snatch
touch	touch	Solution time:	Solution time:	45 Boring	45 Boring
23	Cage	25 mins.	AMIS GAS GAPS	46 Geologi-	47 Geologi-
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(Pref.)			CACHED HEARD		
			ASHY AT TORNEY		
			FEEL UH JUNE		
			EASY BYE ANTS		

Yesterday's answer 1-27

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 9¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Patton Oswalt, 42; Alan Cumming, 46; Bridget Fonda, 47; Cris Collinsworth, 52

Happy Birthday: Take action first and speak later so you don't face opposition from friends, relatives or neighbors who aren't in favor of what you are trying to do. You need to show others if you want to be successful. Relationships with people who are willing to help you out will develop, but make sure you know what is expected in return before you accept what's being offered. Your numbers are 5, 9, 14, 20, 31, 36, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have to think fast and make sure everything you do is suitable for all affected by your decision. Making a wrong move could jeopardize future plans. A sudden change in your income will push you in a direction that brings greater happiness. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't confuse what you want with what you need. It's important to keep things in perspective. An emotional issue with someone you are concerned with may be more your problem than his or hers. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refrain from making impulsive moves. Discipline and hard work will enable you to bypass rash actions that put your timing off. It's crucial that you stick to a set strategy in order to be victorious. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't blame others when it's up to you to go after your goals. You have what's required

to make gains and can do much better following your own path. Separate yourself from the crowd and focus on what you have to offer. ☀️☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be all revved up and ready to be a participant.

Your ability to surpass any competition looks favorable. Emotional troubles in your personal life will lead to change that will eventually put you in a better position. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do what you can and don't worry about what doesn't get done. Right now it's important to do a good job. A change at home may not be welcome but it will be necessary, so accept the inevitable and keep moving. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stability is what you must strive for both at home and at work. Whatever is depressing you should be eliminated or dealt with in one way or another. You cannot function or be creative if you have too much hanging over your head. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have to drive a hard bargain if you want to reach your goals without too much interference. Someone will not be totally honest with you regarding his or her emotional outlook. Don't miss out because you are being made to feel guilty. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You cannot let anyone else make choices for you if you want to win. Change is upon you but it's up to you to decide what it's going to be. Take the lead early and stay there. ☀️☀️



EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everyone will be happy with your decisions but you have to do what's necessary to be a leader in your field. Don't take on something that doesn't fit your game plan. Don't allow an emotional issue from your past to interfere. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your feelings on the backburner so you have a better shot at what you need to get done. Don't learn the hard way by making mistakes. Do less and do it well. Emotional deception is apparent. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Separate your personal and professional lives. A money deal is apparent if you call in a favor that's owed. Don't hesitate even if you feel someone is reluctant to give in. Your persistence will pay off. ☀️☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are competitive and willing to take on the world. You are emotional and impulsive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	1	3						
5			8					
9		2		3				
4		5			2			
5	7	4	1					
1		6			8			
9	3			6				
3			5					
8	6	7						

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	4	6	1	9	2	7	5
5	6	7	3	2	4	9	1	8
1	2	9	8	7	5	3	6	4
4	9	2	5	8	7	1	3	6
3	1	5	2	4	6	8	9	7
6	7	8	9	3	1	5	4	2
7	5	3	4	9	8	6	2	1
2	8	1	7	6	3	4	5	9
9	4	6	1	5	2	7	8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/21

Difficulty Level ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
QUELLER

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward and forward. CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Solution: 10 letters

B	L	C	O	T	T	M	A	N	I	L	V	E	D	A
N	S	A	N	D	A	N	C	E	U	Q	A	L	P	M
W	N	R	N	E	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	N
O	Y	E	E	G	D	R	O	F	W	A	R	C	N	O
T	D	E	P	Y	D	U	W	I	D	E	H	M	N	T
N	E	R	O	T	A									

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Saipan Tribune



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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Lakers rout Jazz for 7th straight home win



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant scored 21 points in three quarters and the Los Angeles Lakers led all the way in defeating Utah 120-91 Tuesday night, handing the Jazz their season-worst fifth straight loss.

Pau Gasol added 20 points, Andrew Bynum had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Lamar Odom scored 17 off the bench for the Lakers, who won their seventh in a row at home.

Deron Williams scored 17 points and C.J. Miles added 14 for Utah, which has lost its last nine against the Lakers at Staples Center. The Jazz went 0-5 on their road trip, including losses to four teams from the East.

The Lakers had the game in hand after the first quarter, when they shot 72 percent from the floor, hit all three of their 3-pointers and went 8 of 10 on free throws while building a 17-point lead.

Los Angeles stretched its lead to 28 points in the second quarter, leading 66-38 at the break largely on the efforts of its bench. Odom, Steve Blake, Shannon Brown and Luke Walton played most of the minutes, while Bryant, Gasol, Ron Artest and Derek Fisher got some much-needed rest.

The Jazz shot 14 of 43 in the first half, when the Lakers had more rebounds, assists, steals and fewer turnovers.

The Lakers' lead reached 33 points in the third, with Bryant hitting two free throws to make it 88-55 before leaving the game for good. The Jazz got no closer than 27 in the period.

Joining Bryant on the bench in the fourth to chat and watch both the game and the crowd were Artest, Bynum and Fisher.

Odom provided the final quarter's highlight, tossing up a high-arching jumper with a sideways glance before sailing out of bounds and into the crowd while getting fouled. Bryant got on his feet to applaud. Brown drew an even louder reaction when he careened in for



AP
Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant dunks in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011, in Los Angeles.

a fast-break dunk only to miss. No matter, though, the Lakers were up by 38 and he just smiled.

Mavericks 112, Clippers 105

In Dallas, reserve guards Jason Terry and

J.J. Barea helped Dallas erase an early 15-point deficit and beat Los Angeles.

Terry scored a season-high 28 points and Barea added 25 for Dallas, which turned things around with a 23-6 spurt in the third quarter, then put together a 14-0 run in the fourth.

The Clippers announced during the first half that a wrist injury will sideline Eric Gordon for at least three weeks. He's their leading scorer at 24.1 points, eighth-best in the NBA.

Celtics 112, Cavaliers 95

In Boston, the hosts inflicted Cleveland's 18th consecutive defeat.

Paul Pierce scored 24 for Boston, and Kendrick Perkins returned for the first time since injuring his knee in the NBA finals to score seven points and have six rebounds in 16 minutes.

It was the Cavs' first time back in Boston since losing Game 6 of the Eastern Conference semifinals to end the LeBron James era in Cleveland.

J.J. Hickson scored 12 points with 17 rebounds for Cleveland.

Nuggets 120, Wizards 109

In Washington, Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points to lead Denver over Washington.

Nene and Al Harrington each scored 21 for the Nuggets, who began a five-game road trip with a strong performance that comes amid continued trade talk surrounding Anthony.

Anthony shot just 8 for 20, but six players scored in double figures for Denver, who put together a 17-2 run to take a 24-10 lead in the first quarter that set up the win.

Bobcats 94, Kings 89

In Sacramento, Stephen Jackson scored 21 points to lead Charlotte over Sacramento.

Kwame Brown had a season-high 18 rebounds for the Bobcats, who are 9-6 since Paul Silas was named interim head coach.

Brown had 13 points and his 18 rebounds were one short of his career high.

Tyreke Evans and Carl Landry each scored 19 points for Sacramento, which shot 36 percent and has dropped five of six games.

Clijsters, Zvonareva into Australian Open semifinals



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Kim Clijsters moved into an Australian Open semifinal showdown with second-ranked Vera Zvonareva, beating Agnieszka Radwanska 6-3, 7-6 (4) on Wednesday as air force planes flew overhead as part of celebrations for the national holiday.

Cannons went off earlier when Zvonareva started the Australia Day proceedings at Rod Laver Arena with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Petra Kvitova.

Thursday's semifinal will be a rematch of the last U.S. Open final, where Clijsters collected her third Grand Slam title.

Clijsters is the only Grand Slam winner into the women's semis, although she's still seeking her first major title outside of America. No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki and China's Li Na meet in the other half of the draw.

"I hope the experience can help me a little bit," Clijsters said. "But there are some tough players out there, we have Nos. 1, 2, 3 still in and Li Na has been playing really well. So it is going to be really tough."

"I lost to Vera at Wimbledon last year, I beat her in finals of U.S. Open."

Clijsters has a 6-3 lead in head-to-heads against Zvonareva, while Li has

won two of her three matches against Wozniacki.

Zvonareva has lost the last two Grand Slam finals, to Clijsters in New York and Serena Williams at Wimbledon.

Clijsters was up a set and a break before Radwanska rallied, winning three straight games to lead 5-4 with a chance to serve for the second set.

With six Royal Australian Air Force "Roulettes" flying overhead, Clijsters converted her fourth break-point chance to tie it at 5 and the set went to a tiebreaker.

"I think the planes kind of took me up higher!" joked Clijsters, long a crowd favorite in Australia, where she's still called "Aussie Kim." She also was engaged for a time to former No. 1-ranked Leyton Hewitt.

"Happy Australia Day everybody," she said in a salute to her supporters.

Clijsters now has reached the semifinals five times in Australia. Her best run remains her trip to the final in 2004, when she lost to fellow Belgian Justine Henin.

Zvonareva wore a black ribbon on her hat in a gesture to send her condolences to the 35 victims of the suicide bombing at a Moscow airport this week. Her quarterfinal also featured a couple distractions.

Zvonareva and Kvitova were surprised when cannons went off in a nearby park.

And Zvonareva asked that the match be stopped for a few minutes while a woman in her sightline was given medical attention in the stands, but chair umpire Mariana Alves told them to continue.

"I didn't know they were going to start this noise during our match, it was a difficult moment," said Zvonareva, who led the final set 3-0 before the disruptions but saw Kvitova level it at 4-4. "You're here to play tennis ... I was trying to keep my concentration."

She said it was also difficult to concentrate given the situation in Moscow.

"Definitely the news came and it was quite shocking. It was difficult," Zvonareva said. "You're calling back home and making sure everyone is OK, the people that you know. I just tried to put it away. It is terrible. But you try to move on."

On Tuesday, Roger Federer moved onto the Australian Open semifinals for the eighth time. He didn't want to talk about anything beyond his next match, against Novak Djokovic.

Federer routed Stanislas Wawrinka 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 in the first all-Swiss quarterfinal at a major. Djokovic eliminated Wimbledon finalist Tomas Berdych 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Federer and Rafael Nadal have dominated the Grand Slam tournaments, winning 21 of the last 23 titles. But Djok-

ovic is dangerous.

It was at this stage of the 2008 Australian Open that Djokovic beat Federer before going on to win his first and only Grand Slam singles title. Federer also lost to Djokovic after having two match points in the U.S. Open semifinals last September.

A mental lapse at Flushing Meadows cost Federer.

"I was playing good enough to win," Federer said. "But I was a bit confused mentally, maybe, because we played the second session. ... Maybe I just felt like I have to get out of this match as quick as I could to save energy to play Rafa the next day. I think it ended up hurting me losing the match at the end."

It ended a sequence for Federer of six straight finals appearances in New York.

And then Djokovic lost to Nadal in the final, giving the Spaniard his first U.S. Open title. That set him on the path toward his Rafa Slam—Nadal is aiming to be the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all four major titles at once.

Nadal plays the night quarterfinal Wednesday against David Ferrer. A win could set up a semifinal against Andy Murray, the only man to beat Nadal in a major in 2010. Murray was playing Alexandr Dolgopolov, the breakthrough player of the tournament.

Wade, James seeing hardly any stat dips

MIAMI (AP)—The stat is known as PAR, simply calculated by adding points, assists and rebounds.

LeBron James led the NBA in it for the past three seasons.

And this year, he's still atop the rankings.

So much for the notion that James and Dwyane Wade would be making big-time statistical sacrifices by playing together in Miami. Midway through this season, the pair have seen nary a dip in their usual numbers, even improvement in some categories—and both expect those trends to continue.

"It's a developmental relationship," Wade said. "We understand to be successful, that's what we need to do. But also, that's what we've always done. That's why we've both individually have been successful in this game."

Entering Tuesday's games, James ranked No. 3 in the NBA in scoring at 25.9 points per game, Wade two spots back on that list at 25.1. Yes, those numbers are down, but only nominally: James came into the season averaging 27.8 points in his career, Wade 25.4.

If those paces hold, they would be only the third duo over the past decade to finish a season among the NBA's top five in scoring. Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal did it with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002-03, and Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony did so for Denver in 2007-08.

"They're great players and they've proven to be productive in their careers," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "So once they became comfortable with this team and with each other, that was a matter of time."

When it comes to PAR, James and Wade are on the leaderboard, for certain.

James' score gets rounded to 40.2—25.9 points, 7.2 rebounds, 7.2 assists, just a smidge ahead of Minnesota's Kevin Love (39.6). Wade ranks ninth league-wide in that ranking at 35.8, his points complemented by a career-high average of 6.5 rebounds along with 4.2 assists.

"The one thing I've always done is try to be the complete player," Wade said. "Same goes for LeBron."

The Heat entered this season with some thinking they were embarking upon an impossible mission, taking three players who have always been the focal point of their respective teams and putting them together in Miami.

But James, Wade and Chris Bosh—who is averaging 18.6 points, down from his career-best 24.0 average last season in Toronto—have found a way to make it work so far.

Even with a slew of injuries, Miami is 31-13.

Raji's score sends Pack to Texas; rush TD next?



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Watching B.J. Raji rumble into the end zone in real time, Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy was as fired up as any Packers fan.

When McCarthy had the chance to watch the key play from Sunday's NFC Championship game victory over the Chicago Bears again on film, he managed to find a few teachable moments.

First off, it's safe to say Raji should tuck the ball away until he's safely in the end zone next time.

And what on Earth was that hip-shaking celebratory dance all about?

"He got two minuses on the play—one for holding the ball out, and one for the dance," McCarthy joked.

Risky ballhandling skills aside, Raji's pivotal play slowed a frantic fourth-quarter comeback attempt by the Bears and third-string quarterback Caleb Hanie. Raji's rambling 18-yard return turned out to be the winning score, setting the Packers up to play the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6 at Cowboys Stadium.

"It really kind of happened so quickly that once the game ended, I felt like I was living the dream," Raji said. "Everything slowed down for me. I go in the locker room, and the postgame, the stage is set up. So I'm like, 'Man, this is really happening.' I'm turning around and people are handing out the NFC Championship hats and T-shirts. I'm like, 'Man, this is coming true.' It's just a blessing."

And it was another big step in what has been an impressive second NFL season for Raji.

While the former Boston College standout isn't nearly as well-known as fellow 2009 first-round Packers draft pick Clay Matthews, he has been critical to the success of the Packers defense this season.

Given the Packers' lack of defensive line depth, Raji doesn't leave the field very often. And despite the heavy work load, Raji seems to be getting better as the season goes on.

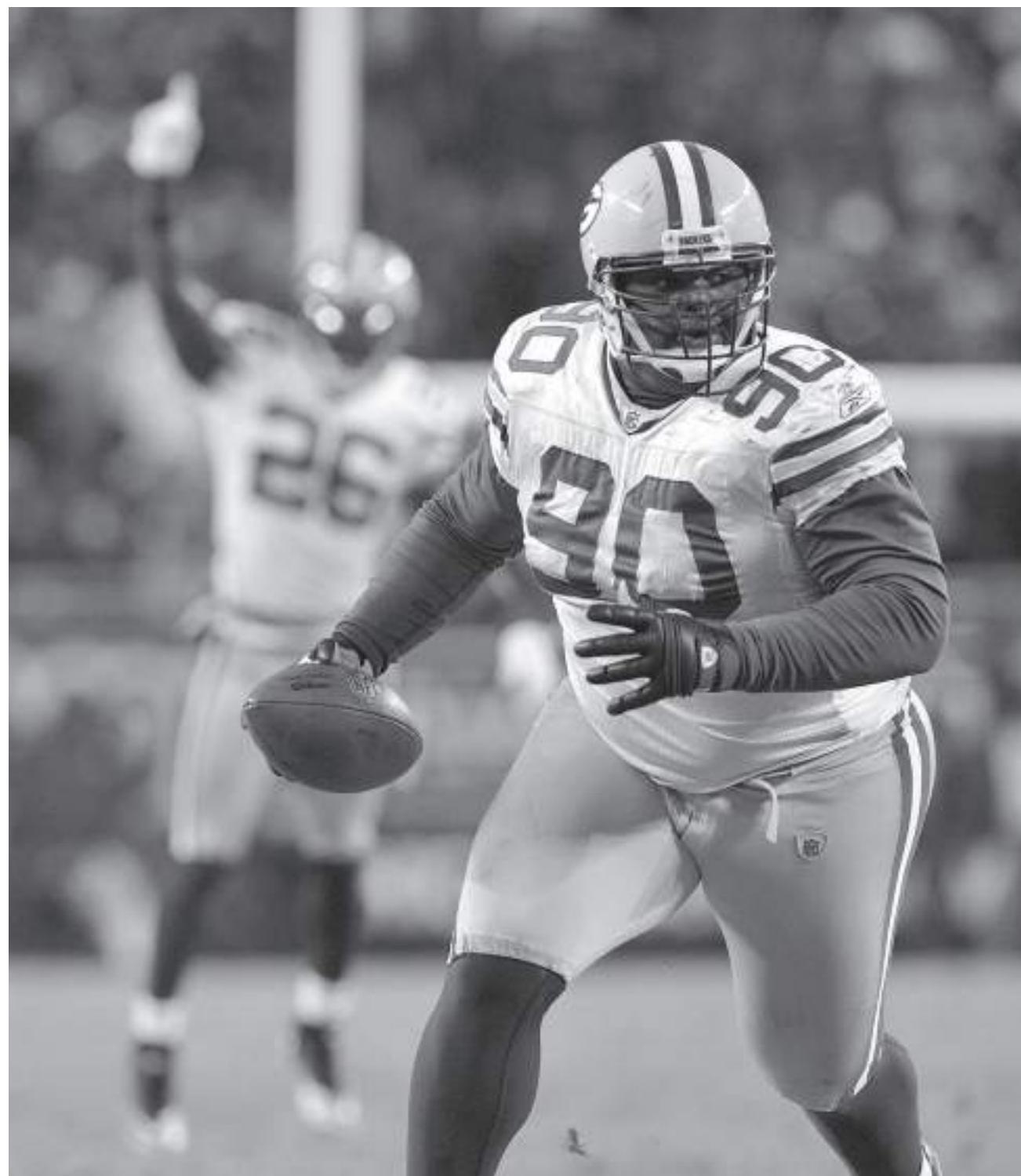
Now there's no telling what's next for the Packers' big man, although he does have an idea.

Would you believe ... a 337-pound running back?

Raji already has taken a handful of snaps as a Green Bay fullback, and is subtly lobbying for a chance to carry the ball.

"I'm more worried about winning," Raji said. "If Coach feels he's giving me the ball to win, I'm very ecstatic about that. If Coach feels he needs me to block so he can run play action stuff or run the ball, I'm fine with that as well. As long as we win, I'm happy."

Already, Raji's limited exploits on



In this Jan. 23, 2011, file photo, Green Bay Packers' B.J. Raji (90) returns an interception to score the game-winning touchdown during the fourth quarter of the NFC Championship NFL football game against the Chicago Bears in Chicago. AP

offense have earned him a nickname: "The Freezer," a tip of the hat to former Chicago Bears player William "The Refrigerator" Perry.

"I was miked up for the Atlanta game, and one of the trainers came to me and said, 'You look like The Fridge out there,'" Raji said. "And I was just playing around, 'I'm the Freezer.' I was making a joke, just making light of the situation and having a good time with it. So I guess, in retrospect, I came up with the name."

Despite any offensive aspirations Raji might have, his primary responsibility remains on defense, where he'll be ex-

pected to disrupt the middle of the Steelers' offensive line.

And he knows he'll have his hands full with Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

"He's a very big guy," Raji said. "We played him last year and we had trouble bringing him down. I think we missed about four or five sacks on him just because he eluded us."

And maybe he'll catch Roethlisberger by surprise like he did Hanie, dropping back in coverage and grabbing a pass out of the air.

"He jumps in front of the ball, quarterback never saw him," McCarthy said.

"Just to catch and show his athletic ability (is impressive)."

Charles Woodson was impressed with Raji's hands.

"As a lineman, you don't get to handle that ball much," Woodson said. "So for him to come up with a catch and get into the end zone, that was huge."

Raji got mixed reviews on his celebration dance, where he put his hands on his hips and began to swivel. He said some people loved it—and others joked that he needed some lessons.

"I got 170 text messages after the game," Raji said. "I haven't read half of them yet. It's just been a crazy couple days."

Vick signs first endorsement contract since arrest

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick is back pitching products.

Vick has signed his first endorsement contract since his release from prison. The Philadelphia Eagles' Pro Bowl quarterback inked a two-year contract with Unequal Technologies, a provider of the football pads Vick wore most of last season.

The deal will be announced on Thursday.

"We're real excited about it," chief executive officer Rob Vito said Tuesday. "Michael is good people. He paid his dues. President Obama reached out

to him. He deserves an opportunity. This is what makes America so great. He's moved forward. He's a whole other person."

Vito said Vick is the company's first corporate spokesman. Terms of his deal weren't disclosed. But Vito said it's a "sizable" contract.

"We believe it was worth it," he said, "because of Michael Vick and how he can shed light on the technology of our products."

Unequal Technologies makes several shock-blocking sports pads. When Vick returned after missing three

games with a rib injury, he wore a vest designed by Unequal. He later wore shoulder pads and thigh pads made by the company.

"The Unequal technology is a part of my game now and I won't play without my Unequal," Vick said in a statement acquired by the Associated Press. "Unequal's protective power gives me a whole new level of confidence in my game. It makes me feel invincible."

Vick was once the NFL's highest-paid player and he endorsed many products during his six seasons with the Atlanta

Falcons. But Vick lost everything following his 2007 arrest on dogfighting charges, for which he served 18 months in federal prison.

He returned to the NFL in 2009 with the Eagles, and worked his way from a seldom-used third-string quarterback to the key cog on a division-winning team. He will start for the NFC in the Pro Bowl this weekend.

Vick appeared in a television commercial for a car dealership last month. However, he didn't get paid for it. He was compensated by having use of a Nissan sport utility vehicle.

NFL BRIEFS

Report: Welker regrets foot-related comments

BOSTON (AP)—New England Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker says he regrets comments he made referring to foot-fetish reports involving New York Jets coach Rex Ryan. "Yeah, sure I do," he told the Boston Herald, according to a report on the newspaper's website Tuesday. The Herald said Welker expressed his regret at an airport in San Francisco while awaiting his flight to Honolulu for the Pro Bowl on Sunday. At a news conference on Jan. 13, three days before the Jets beat the Patriots 28-21 in a divisional playoff game, Welker made about a dozen references to toes and feet, a not-so-subtle dig at Ryan. Patriots coach Bill Belichick benched Welker for the first offensive series of that game.

Ochocinco again saying he'll change name

CINCINNATI (AP)—Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco is putting his unusual name back in the news. Ochocinco suggested at the end of an interview with ESPN on Tuesday that he's planning to change his name back to Johnson. He didn't give a specific reason, other than saying he's "done enough with the Ocho thing." He has talked about changing his name several times. Leading up to a game against the Jets during the 2009 season, he insisted that he would change his name back to Johnson if cornerback Darrelle Revis shut him down. Ochocinco failed to catch a pass, but kept his name. He later said his comments were made in fun and he was never serious about a name change.

Hornung thinks Favre will be forgiven

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Paul Hornung believes Brett Favre will one day be welcomed back with open arms by the Green Bay faithful. The Hall of Famer just thinks it will take time. Having the Packers win a Super Bowl with another quarterback while Favre limps into retirement—perhaps for real this time—would help speed up the healing process. "Then everybody will be over it," Hornung said with a laugh. The former Green Bay star says Favre's departure from the team three seasons ago was difficult for all involved, but added those days seem like a distant memory now that the Packers are soaring under budding superstar Aaron Rodgers.

2011 SML kicks off with title rematch on Feb. 2

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2011 Saipan Major League will open with a rematch between last year's champion Fielders and 2010 runner-up Brewers on Feb. 2 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

A total of six teams will be vying for the coveted 2011 SML crown. Aside from the Fielders and Brewers, the other four teams that have signed up are last year's pennant champion St. Michael's Angels (Formerly



ROSELYN B. MONROVO
Ford Rangers), returning Masters, newcomer Ol'Aces, and D-9ers.

Ford Rangers, which will be known as St. Michael's Angels, is one of six teams that will see action in the 2011 Saipan Major League season, which is set to kick off next month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CNMI to host Law Enforcement Goodwill Golf on March



The CNMI will be hosting the 10th Annual Law Enforcement Goodwill Golf Tournament on Saipan this coming March 11 and 12.

Over 50 employees and family members from Guam are expected to participate in this year's goodwill event.

The goodwill tournament started many years ago for law enforcement employees in the CNMI and Guam to boost ca-

maraderie, information sharing, and morale.

The CNMI and Guam have taken turns flying back and forth to the other's island during an annual basis since 2000.

The goodwill tournament actually began in the late-1990s, but was cancelled for two years including last year due to the slump in the region's economy.

However, the CNMI and Guam discussed the possible return of the goodwill tournament after a yearlong break, with

hard work and perseverance; the goodwill golf tournament is back on track.

The event includes a welcoming practice round on March 10 for participants coming in from Guam.

On March 11, the day begins with Ryder Cup format two-men scramble and followed the next day with team medal play.

The entire event ends with a farewell/awards banquet that will be on March 11 after the tournament. The Guam team

Ford Rangers), returning Masters, newcomer Ol'Aces, and D-9ers.

After the opening game between Fielders and Brewers on Feb. 2, the Angels will take the field against Masters on Feb. 4. The Ol'Aces and D-9ers will then face off on Feb. 8. All games in the SML 2011 season start promptly at 6:30pm.

The Masters are back after a three-year break and will be managed by CNMI Baseball Hall of Famer, Tony Rogolifoi. Rogolifoi is also the Brewers head coach as well as SML league coordinator.

Former Tanapag Falcon Eric Lizama fronts the Ol'Aces who

are making their SML debut this season. Lizama will be donning his Ol'Aces uniform as both a player and coach.

At the helm for the D-9ers will be Bob Lizama, who will also serve as both player and coach. Lizama holds bragging rights as the only player to suit up in every SML season since it started in 1981.

In related news, SML will be exclusively using wooden bats for the 2011 season.

"To continue the tradition of developing the hitting skills of our players, the league has approved and will continue to use wooden bats. The league will provide assistance in the form

of allowing teams to use its wooden bats during game time only," said Rogolifoi.

Rogolifoi added, "While the SML will make every effort to ensure the teams' needs are accommodated, teams are encouraged to purchase their own bats and not depend entirely on the league."

In the 2010 SML finals, the Fielders were on the brink of losing the best-of-five championship series to the Brewers. However, the Fielders regrouped and mounted one of the greatest comebacks in SML history. They won the last three games to clinch the title and a place in local sports history.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the most recent Law Enforcement Goodwill Golf Tournament pose for a group photo. The event returns after a two-year hiatus with Saipan hosting the tournament in March 11 and 12.

bert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

For more information, contact Team captain Nakamura at 287-4000. (PR)

LADY

From Page

a highly competitive matchup that went back and forth all the way to the end.

The Lady Dolphins then rebounded nicely from their first

loss of the season, beating Grace Christian Academy in the 5:30pm game on the south court.

MHS 1 dropped the first set to GCA, 18-25, but took control of the match after taking the second set, 25-20, before holding on to win the tiebreaker set, 15-10.

The Lady Eagles (2-2) were

coming off a high from winning their first match of the day with a sweep over Kagman High School (1-2) on the north end. In the duel, GCA showed more consistency returning serves and working the ball back and forth between teammates to create a lot of high-percentage shot

opportunities.

They jumped on the Lady Ayuyus, 25-11, to take the first set and went on to secure the victory after winning the second set, 25-15. Then GCA took a commanding, 11-4, lead in the third set, but KHS fought back valiantly to finish with a respect-

able 12-15 loss to save face.

Saipan Southern High School (1-2) notched its first win of the season in the form of a sweep over MHS 2 (0-4) in the other 5:30pm pairing on the north court. In another very close match, Southern edged out MHS 2, 25-23, in the opening

set. MHS 2 kept fighting but came up a little short again in the second set, 20-25.

With the victory out of reach MHS 2 laid down in the final set as the Lady Manta Rays secured the shut out, 15-8. Notably, both of Southern's previous losses were forfeitures.

35A

From Page

game at halftime. Moises added eight more points to his total to give the 35A All-Stars a 41-38 advantage at the break. George Masga led the 40A All-Stars in the first half with 11 points.

The 40A All-Stars came alive in the third quarter and had a two-possession advantage, 64-60, heading into the final period.

The 40A All-Stars' Martin Moreno kept his team in the game with a 10-point effort in the third quarter, but multiple hands chipped in for the 35A All-Stars to hold the 40A All-Stars at bay.

After three hard fought quarters, the 40A All-Stars grew weary midway through the fourth period as the 35A All-Stars appeared to finally warm up. The 40A All-Stars simply could not manage to advance the ball down court on offense

nor recover in time to make any defensive stops.

Fatigue and team chemistry may have been factors in the late breakdown, but they still put up a good fight for most of the match.

The 35A All-Stars' Moises accrued 30 points to lead all scorers and was selected as Clash of the Titans finals most valuable player after the game.

Masga and Moreno co-led the 40A All-Stars in the loss with 19

points apiece. Notably, six players finished in double-digits for the 35A All-Stars.

In other news the MBFNMI 35A Memorial Cup is expected to start is set to start on April 6.

A total of 12 teams have already shown interest in competing including defending champion IT&E, Island Apparel, Mutombo, Armatech, Uno-Dos of Chalan Kanoa, QQ Rent-A-Car, as well as other teams to be coached by Tony Diaz, Aires

Olivos, Ed Yalung, Marlon Si-son, and more.

Slots are still available and MBFNMI officials urge potential teams to get started preparing for the season opener.

Interested players must be MBFNMI members in order to play. For more information, email 670_mastersbasketball@yahoo.com or check out their Facebook

page for periodic updates.

35A All-Stars 96 – Moises 30, Berline 16, Sison 12, Park 11, Tabora 11, Olivos 10, Perez 6.

40A All-Stars 77 – Moreno 19, G. Masga 19, D. Masga 16, Babauta 8, Irinaka 6, Zapata 4, Bello 3, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 41-38, 64-60, 96-77.

MACARANAS

From Page

son's accomplishment, saying that the Banquet of Champions invitation is one of the most special honors R.J. was privileged to be part of.

The older Macaranas added his son would not have made it this far if not for their supporters back home. These include their family and friends in the CNMI, the Joeten family, Fil-Taga, Tan Holdings, CNMI Junior Golf, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Ed Mamibusan, Jeff Taylor, Beautify CNMI, and Cinta Kaipat.

Richard said R.J. vows to continue working hard to inspire aspiring young golfers from the CNMI, like the latter's younger brother, Christian.

"Golf is boring for some of the younger sport fans. R.J.'s brother, Christian, used to say the same thing before, but now Christian

looks to follow R.J.'s footsteps. Christian is just 6 years old, but showed some passion for the game when he entered a golf camp and won the putting contest in his age group. It was quite a surprise for him. Christian got his first medal and wants to learn more about golf," Richard said.

and NMC Proa's Jack Lizama tallied nine each.

Three players tied in the most steals after two games with Rabauliman, IP&E Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon, and Lizama collecting 11 apiece.

In the blocks department, Joyner had the most in two games with eight, Rabauliman posted four, and Barcenas claimed three.

first two games, the athletic player still played unselfish basketball, as he posted the second most assists so far in the league with seven. NMC Proa's Dan Barcenas topped the list with 10, while teammate Dave Palacios, IP&E Konflikt's Ivan De Vero, Mobil's Jun Estolas, and IT&E Fundamentalists' Hok Yun Lee recorded six apiece.

Though Sablan was the Hoopaholics' top scorer in the

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	34	.773	–
New York	23	.523	11
Philadelphia	19	.432	15
New Jersey	13	.289	21 1/2
Toronto	13	.289	21 1/2

Miami 31 13 .705 –

Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Orlando 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Charlotte 18 25 .419 12 1/2

Washington 13 31 .295 18

Southeast Division

Miami	31	13	.705	–
Atlanta	29	16	.644	2 1/2
Orlando	29	16	.644	2 1/2
Charlotte	18	25	.419	12 1/2
Washington	13	31	.295	18

Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Orlando 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Charlotte 18 25 .419 12 1/2

Washington 13 31 .295 18

Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Orlando 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Charlotte 18 25 .419 12 1/2

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Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

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Charlotte 18 25 .419 12 1/2

Washington 13 31 .295 18

Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Orlando 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Charlotte 18 25 .419 12 1/2

Washington 13 31 .295 18

Atlanta 29 16 .644 2 1/2

Orlando 29 16 .644 2 1/2

2010 Saipan Bowling Association Awards Banquet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Top 3 finishers in the 2010 Budweiser King of the Lanes Tournament, from left, Robert Talavera, Rusty Musca, and Simon Manacop, pose for a group photo.



The Top 3 placers in the 2010 Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Tournament, from left, Gloria Omechelang, Yho Villavicencio, and Ron Cal show their trophies and cash prizes.



Husband and wife Percy and Gloria Omechelang receive a special prize from Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan for playing the most rounds in the 2010 SBA monthly roll-offs.



The Top 4 finishers in the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tournament, from left, Marion McKenzie, M.J. Aldan, Ryan Batac, and Marcel McKenzie, pose for a group photo.



Alex Castro, center, and Robert Talavera, right, who were tied with the most wins in the monthly tournaments with two each, receive their prizes from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Ron Cal, right, who topped the Bowling Ranking System in the women's division with 780 points, receives a prize from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Gigi Zapanta, left, receives a beach chair donated by SBA sponsor Budweiser for posting the most wins in the monthly tournaments.



Alex Castro, right, receives a plaque and \$100 for bowling a perfect game.



Men's division Bowling Ranking System top finisher Raymond Zapanta, right, is congratulated by SBA president Jerry Tan.



Raji's score sends Pack to Texas; rush TD next?

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28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011

Saipan Tribune Sports



Lakers rout Jazz for 7th straight home win

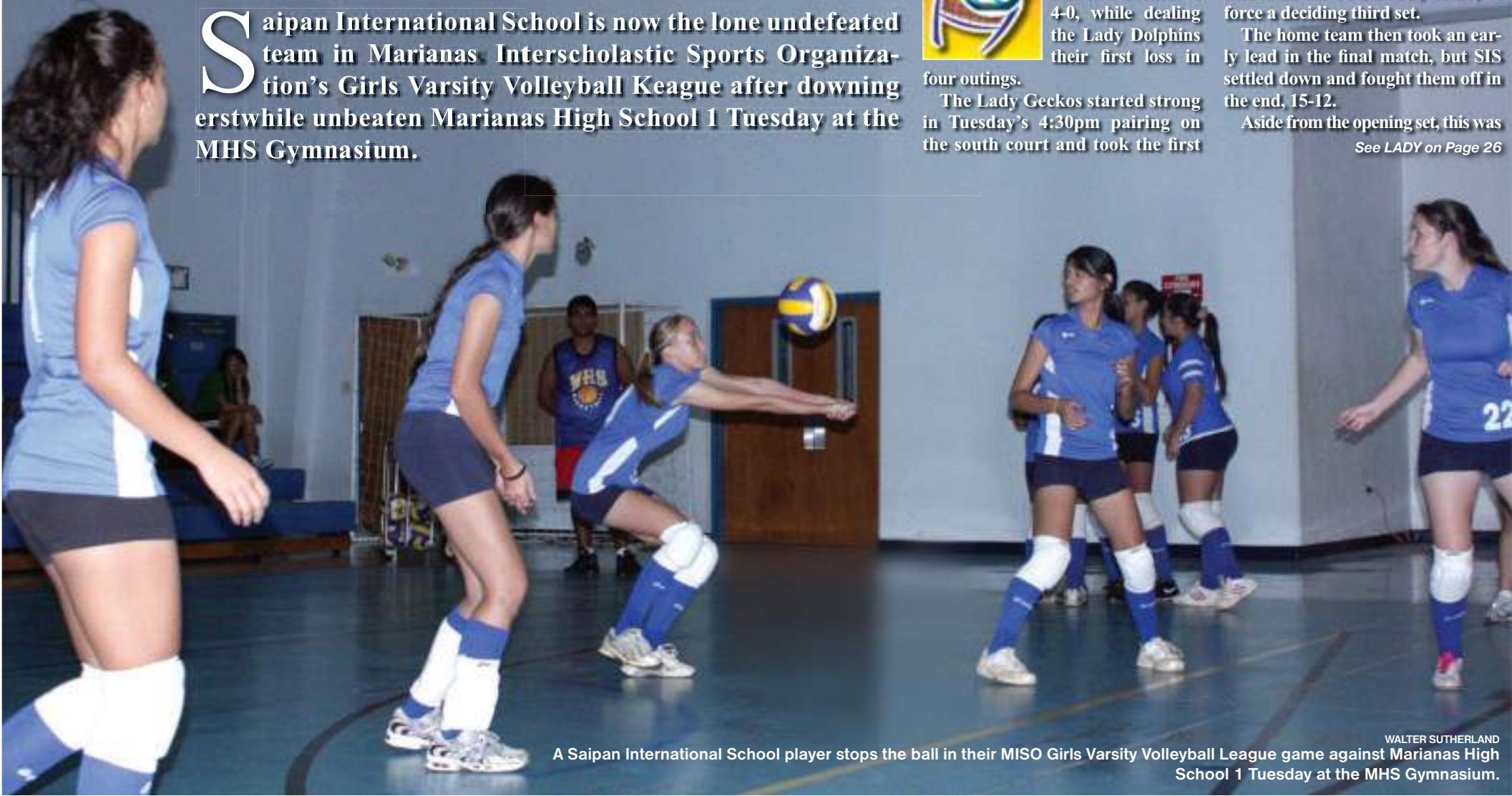
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Geckos win battle of undefeated teams

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan International School is now the lone undefeated team in Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's Girls Varsity Volleyball League after downing erstwhile unbeaten Marianas High School 1 Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.



The Lady Geckos improved their win-loss record to 4-0, while dealing the Lady Dolphins their first loss in four outings.

The Lady Geckos started strong in Tuesday's 4:30pm pairing on the south court and took the first

set, 25-8.

MHS 1, however, battled back and won the second set, 25-23, to force a deciding third set.

The home team then took an early lead in the final match, but SIS settled down and fought them off in the end, 15-12.

Aside from the opening set, this was

See LADY on Page 26

35A All-Stars rule 'Clash of the Titans'



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The 35A Division All-Stars pose for a photo after winning the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's "Clash of the Titans" All-Star Bash Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Ernie Moises, front row center, was selected finals most valuable player.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 35A All-Stars downed the 40A All-Stars, 96-77, in the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's "Clash of the Titans" championship game Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After three competitive quarters, the 35A All-Stars conserved their energy for a late

push in the final canto to win running away.

The game started slow as both teams tried to feel each other out in the opening 10 minutes of action.

The 35A All-Stars came out rusty and missed a lot of shots, but still managed an early 18-16 lead. Rugged forward Ernie Moises paced the 35A All-Stars with seven markers in the first quarter.

The 40A All-Stars managed to keep it a one-possession

See 35A on Page 26

Macaranas honored in PGA Banquet of Champions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas was recognized for his impressive performance last season during the 2010 Southern California PGA Banquet of Champions.

At the event held last Saturday (Sunday on Saipan) at the

Friendly Hills Country Club in Los Angeles, Macaranas received two awards—third place trophies for the Summer Series Player of the Year and Desert Series Player of the Year.

The 11-year-old golfer was also honored for ruling the Bridgestone PGA Tournament of Champions in the Summer and Fall Series and placing second in the Bridgestone PGA Desert Tournament of Champions.

"It's nice to start another year

of hard work with a party, and just be in the mix of some accomplished players with exceptional skill," Macaranas said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaranas' father, Richard, said their family is proud of his

See MACARANAS on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas shows the plaque he received during the 2010 Southern California PGA Banquet of Champions at the Friendly Hills Country Club in Los Angeles last week.



Strong start for Hoopaholics players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hoopaholics players' individual skills are on top of the field in the early goings of the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League.

Leading the Hoopaholics' strong start in the nine-team league is gunner Dave Sablan, who finished in the Top 3 of the scoring and assists leaders after two games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan drives through IT&E Fundamentalists defenders during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging. Sablan averaged 26.5 points in two games.

In the Hoops' 2-0 start, the swingman collected 53 points for an average of 26.5 points per game. Sablan converted 22 two-point field goals, had one triple, and made six free throws, lifting the Hoopaholics to the top spot early this season.

The Rollers' Manny Matagolai led the league in scoring after two games with his 56 points, but his team is at the bottom of the team standings with a 0-2 slate. Matagolai averaged 28 points per match, connected on four triples, tied Sablan's six charters, but had less two-point field goals with 19. Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman completed the

See STRONG on Page 26